

December 2017



Edwardsville | Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce

Business Builds: Economies. Leaders. Communities.

Common Ground



Edwardsville | Glen Carbon
Chamber of Commerce

MEMBERSHIP MEETING
JANUARY 26

11:30am-1pm

N.O. Nelson Leclair Room

Enjoy a **business casual lunch**, celebrate the successes of **2017**, and learn what the Ed/Glen Chamber has planned for **2018**.

BUSINESS BUILDS: Economies. Leaders. Communities.

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2017 Executive Committee/Officers

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Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce

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Fowler Management Services
& Donco Electrical Construction

Eric Gowin, President
Contegra Construction Company, LLC

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Scheffel Boyle

Bruce Riedle, CPA, Treasurer
R.P. Lumber Co., Inc. & Plummer Companies

Dave Viox, Owner
AAAdvantage Insurance Group, Inc.

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

Lisa Allen, Allen Insurance Group
Brendan Barone, Kunkel Commercial Group
Jeremy Colton, Big Frog Custom T-Shirts & More
James DeMoulin, FCB Edwardsville Bank
Tomiera Harris, Scott Credit Union
Angie Lange, Express Employment Professionals
Tim Mahnesmith, Edward Jones Investments
Justin Miner, Commerce Bank

Chamber Staff

Desirée Bennyhoff, IOM, ACE
President & CEO
ceo@edglenchamber.com

Katie Haas
Membership Director
membership@edglenchamber.com

Kathy Hentz
Administrative Assistant
office@edglenchamber.com

Vision

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

Mission

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

on the cover

2018 Membership Meeting & Luncheon

Learn what your chamber of commerce has planned for 2017 at the 8th Annual Membership Meeting & Luncheon, scheduled for **11:30am-1pm Friday, January 26** in the Leclair Room on the N.O. Nelson campus of Lewis and Clark Community College. In 2013, Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce leadership had the great pleasure of working with retired business executive **Robert McClellan** to craft a **new strategic plan**, which included adopting new **mission** and **vision** statements, **guiding principles**, and core values.

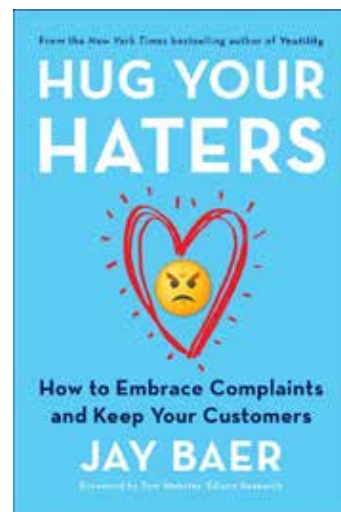
2018 will be dedicated to further implementing strategic change and continued progress for the Ed/Glen Chamber, primarily working toward U.S. Chamber of Commerce Accreditation and enhancing the organization's focus on advocating for pro-business legislation at all levels of government.

We hope you will attend the Annual Membership Meeting & Luncheon to help us kick off 2018 with the unveiling of our annual plan of work. This business casual luncheon is an opportunity for members to become familiar with the Ed/Glen Chamber's 2018 menu of services, and celebrate the chamber's 2017 accomplishments.

2018 nexus@noon: Hug Your Haters

Touted as the first modern book on customer service, **Hug Your Haters** is a delightful and inspiring read that can help your company thrive in this 'all-complaints-are-public' era. In the **eight nexus@noon sessions** throughout the year, attendees will learn how to embrace the inevitable 'haters' – and come to appreciate the often positive outcomes that follow.

Cost to attend is just **\$10** for lunch, payable directly to Edison's Entertainment Complex upon arrival. **RSVPs ARE REQUIRED** for each session and must be made no later than 24 hours in advance. Food and handouts will be prepared only for those guests who have submitted an RSVP more than 24 hours in advance.



special investors

Gold Level

Anderson Hospital
Gateway Regional Medical Center

Silver Level

Amazon.com
Ameren Illinois Utilities
AT&T Mobility Edwardsville
Hortica 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
Cassens & Sons
Cassens Transport
Castelli's Moonlight Restaurant at 255
City of Edwardsville
DoubleTree by Hilton
Eden Village Retirement Community
Edwardsville Intelligencer
First Mid-Illinois Bank & Trust
Gori Julian & Associates, PC
Holland Construction Services, Inc.
Homefield Energy, A Dynegy Company
Junoau Associates Inc., P.C.
Korte & Luitjohan Contractors, Inc.
Love's Travel Stops
Madison Mutual Insurance Company
Mathis, Marifian & Richter, LTD
Mike Shannon's Grill Edwardsville, LLC
R. P. Lumber Company, Inc.
Robert 'Chick' Fritz, Inc.
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
Village of Glen Carbon
West & Company, LLC

Premier Level

1818 Chophouse
AAIC, Inc.
ABRA Auto Body & Glass
Abstracts & Titles Inc.
Allison's Comfort Shoes & Boots
American Family Insurance
Annie's Frozen Custard
Assurance Brokers, Ltd.
Banfield Pet Hospital
BARBERVoss Home Care
Bard & Didriksen Pediatrics, PC
Bauer Hite Orthodontic Specialists
Bella Milano Edwardsville
Best Western Plus Pontoon Beach
Big Daddy's Edwardsville
Brain Balance Achievement Centers
Brickman Orthodontics
Bull & Bear Grill & Bar
Chava's Mexican Restaurant
Chef's Shoppe
Cleveland-Heath
Club Z! In-Home Tutoring Services
Cold Stone Creamery
Comfort Inn
Commerce Bank
CompuType, Inc.
Contegra Construction Company, LLC
Cornerstone Insurance Group
Country Club Lawn & Tree Specialists, Inc.
Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, Inc.
Culver's of Edwardsville
Days Inn
Dimond Bros. Insurance, LLC
Doc's Smokehouse & Catering
Donnewald 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
Gerold Moving & Warehousing Company
Glik's Department Store
Goddard School
Greensfelder, Hemker & Gale, P.C.
Hampton Inn & Suites
Harvey H. Breckner, DMD, MS
Hawkins Law Office, P.C.
Hawthorne Animal Hospital, LTD
HeplerBroom, LLC
Highland Recycling & Shredding
HireLevel
Hotshots Sports Bar & Grill
HSMS 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
Louer Facility Planning, Inc.
Magnuson Camelot Hotel
Market Basket
Midwest Occupational Medicine
Minuteman Press
National Bank
Network Specialists, LLC
Northwestern Mutual
ONEWAY Construction
Phone Masters
Plocher Construction Company, Inc.
RE/MAX 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 Spaghetteria
Sunset Hills Country Club
Sunset Hills Family Dental
Super 8 Motel
The Wooden Nickel Pub & Grill
Thompson & Lengacher, P.C.
Tiger Plumbing, Heating, A/C, & Electrical
Town and Country Bank
Tzinberg & Associates, P.C.
University Nursing & Rehab Center
US Bank
Vision For Life
Visionary Wealth Advisors
Viviano Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc.
Volkert, Inc.
Wang Gang Asian

save the date

1/11 Thu 4pm

Ribbon Cutting

Keller Williams Marquee
1254 University Drive, Suite 200
Edwardsville, IL 62025

1/18 Thu 5-7pm

Business After 5

1818 Chophouse &
RE/MAX Alliance Rick Owens
210 South Buchanan Street
Edwardsville, IL 62025

1/26 Fri 11:30am-1pm

Annual Membership Meeting & Luncheon

N.O. Nelson Leclair Room
600 Troy Road
Edwardsville, IL 62025
RSVP at edglenchamber.com

1/31 Wed 8:30am-12:30pm

Defining & Defending Against Harassment & Discrimination

Holiday Inn Express & Suites
1000 Plummer Drive
Edwardsville, IL 62025
Email rkrekel@ilchamber.org or call 217.522.5512 to register.

2/7 Wed 8-9pm

Chamber Q&A: Maximize Your Membership

Ed/Glen Chamber Office
1 North Research Drive
Edwardsville, IL 62025
RSVP at edglenchamber.com

2/13 Tue 12-1pm

nexus@noon

Edison's Entertainment Complex
2477 South IL Route 157
Edwardsville, IL 62025
RSVP at edglenchamber.com

2/15 Thu 5-7pm

Business After 5

Donco Electrical Construction
200 Lakefront Parkway
Edwardsville, IL 62025

2/22 Thu 5-7pm

ChamberNET

Gateway Center
1 Gateway Drive
Collinsville, IL 62234

3/8 Thu 5:30pm

Annual Awards Gala & Auction

SIUE Morris University Center
Meridian Ballroom
Edwardsville, IL 62026
*RSVP at edglenchamber.com
Invitations Mailing Soon
Sponsorship Packages Available*

3/13 Tue 12-1pm

nexus@noon

Holiday Inn Entertainment Complex
2477 South IL Route 157
Edwardsville, IL 62025
RSVP at edglenchamber.com

3/15 Thu 5-7pm

Business After 5

Scott Credit Union
101 Credit Union Way
Edwardsville, IL 62025

3/28 Wed 8-9am

ACCELERATE

Executive-Led Presentation

Holiday Inn Express & Suites
1000 Plummer Drive
Edwardsville, IL 62025
*RSVP at edglenchamber.com
ACCELERATE Members Only*

Membership renewal notices have been mailed.
We appreciate your prompt payment so we may
continue serving you - WE ♥ OUR MEMBERS!

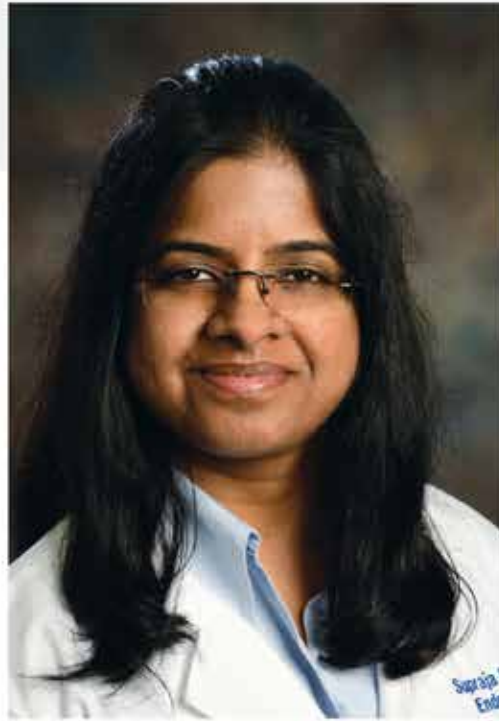
MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

Ed/Glen Chamber's
Annual Membership
Meeting is slated
for 11:30am Friday,
January 26, 2018.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

Ed/Glen Chamber's
Annual Gala &
Auction is slated for
5:30pm Thursday,
March 8, 2018.

Welcome Our Newest Provider



Supraja Reddy, MD
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bjcmedicalgroup.org

BJC Medical Group
of Illinois

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Edwardsville | Glen Carbon
Chamber of Commerce

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January 26

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BUSINESS BUILDS: Economies. Leaders. Communities.

\$29 Per Person

Business Name _____

Contact Person _____

Business Address _____

Business Phone _____

Name of Attendee(s) _____

Email Address(es) _____

I am enclosing a check for \$ _____

We look forward to a successful 2018!

Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce | 1 North Research Drive | Edwardsville, IL 62025 | p: 618.656.7600 | f: 618.656.7611

connect

We would like to recognize the many Ed/Glen Chamber investors who are celebrating membership anniversaries in the month of December. This monthly feature spotlights members for their ongoing support of the Ed/Glen Chamber. We offer our sincerest thanks to each of the following business for their continued membership!

50+ YEARS

Buhrmester Paint & Wallpaper Inc.

20-29 YEARS

Flanigan Law Office

10-19 YEARS

**Slagle Financial
True Value Rental
Mt. Joy Missionary Baptist Church
Boy Scouts of America Greater STL**

**Edwardsville Arts Center
Ed/Glen Habitat for Humanity
Hurford Architects, Inc.**

5-9 YEARS

**Franzen Wealth Strategies, LLC
Joseph E. Meyer & Associates**

**Madison County Child Advocacy Center
St. John's Community Care**

1-4 YEARS

Watts Copy Systems

Batteries Plus Bulbs

9Round - Edwardsville

business of the month

COMPANY HISTORY: Edison's Entertainment Complex opened in June of 2012 and is now in its sixth year. Edison's has a local ownership group led by managing owner/partner Matt McSparin. The facility features 12 lanes of boutique bowling, a two-level 4,000 sq. ft. laser tag arena, a 65-game state-of-the-art arcade, 10 party & meeting spaces, and a full-service bar and restaurant serving inventive pizzas, gourmet burgers, a large variety of street tacos, scrumptious salads and much more. Over the five-year history of the company, the ownership group has re-invested more than \$500,000 in improvements such as an expanded parking lot, digital marquee sign, newly renovated laser tag arena, and various technology and décor improvements. Edison's prides itself on providing GENIUS level service and is the home of where quality meets value.

ECONOMIC IMPACT: In addition to providing employment to more than 75 full- and part-time workers, Edison's generates nearly \$250,000 annually in property, sales, and entertainment tax revenue. Edison's also reinvests in the local economy by hiring local vendors and fellow chamber members for capital investment projects as much as possible. For example, to complete the \$250,000 renovation of the "Pharaoh's Quest" laser tag attraction, Edison's enlisted the help of Disson Painting, Pyramid Electric, and Vallow Floor Covering.

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT: Each year, Edison's contributes in excess of \$35,000 in cash and merchandise donations to local organizations' fundraising efforts. In addition to offering a 'Social Night' fundraising program for area churches, schools, and sports teams, Edison's also partners with several local charitable organizations – like Edwardsville Neighbors in Need and Junior Service Club – to help make their annual fundraising events successful.

WORKFORCE COMMITMENT: To recognize excellence in guest service, Edison's offers both a 'Cast Member of the Month' and a 'Cast Member of the Quarter' program. Each recognition comes with a cash reward, a framed photo in Edison's lobby, and email recognition from the CEO to the entire team of cast members. Edison's also recognizes 'caught being great' moments by rewarding cast members 'Edison's Bucks' when a manager witnesses someone going above and beyond to make a memorable moment for a guest. Edison's bucks are valid for food purchases in Edison's restaurant, and there are a few things that put a bigger smile on the face of a front-line worker than free food!



CHARACTER: Edison's mission statement is "Make memorable moments." To help staff deliver this promise, Edison's management team coaches six core values to their cast members daily. The acronym for these principals is G.R.E.A.T.S., and it stands for: guests first; respect for all; energetic presence; active hands; teamwork; and swiftly serve and solve.

LEADERSHIP: CEO Matt McSparin has recently joined the board of directors for the Metro East Fellowship of Christian Athletes and is also a member of the St. Louis Sports Commission and the Augustana College vision advisory board. McSparin is past president and founding member of Edwardsville Little Tigers Football, is a former church council member, and served on the Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce board of directors.

INNOVATION: In contrast to many family entertainment centers throughout the country, Edison's has unlocked the mystery of selling time versus selling attractions. Their 'unlimited' and 'all-access' entertainment products allow guests to consume Edison's bowling, laser tag, and arcade attractions for specified amounts of time, eliminating the need to reach into their wallets each time they want to play more. Additionally, Edison's number one goal is guest service. The management team recognizes that going above and beyond to provide guests a truly positive and memorable experience is paramount – and not just lip service – and they coach this to their workers every day. Edison's also provides excellence in party and event delivery that few others in the industry offer.

EXCELLENCE: Edison's invests in higher-quality food and beverage product and service than most family entertainment centers offer. This is true not only of the menu service in the dining room and lounge, but also with food delivery for parties and private events. Most guests walk away from an Edison's dining experience saying, "Wow! I had no idea a place with a bowling alley could serve food this good!" Edison's Entertainment Complex has received the following recognitions: #1 'Best New Entertainment Center of 2013' by *Tourist Attractions & Parks Magazine*; #7 in the 'Top 20 Places To Take Kids in St. Louis 2017' by *KidsOutAndAbout.com*; and #3 in 'Best Family Entertainment 2017' in the *Belleville News Democrat Readers Choice Poll*.

FUTURE FOCUS: Edison's typically reviews expansion and enhancement opportunities each year and future options include a building expansion to provide more attractions, development of an outdoor party/events area to accommodate larger groups, and a catering program for external events. Edison's management is often approached by potential investors interested in opening additional locations, but for now, the plan is to remain the St. Louis area's one and only home of Genius Level Fun for Everyone. Edison's...what a bright idea!



This half-day interactive seminar will review state and federal labor laws affecting discrimination on the basis of age, sex, race, religion, and disability.

Key Topics Outlined:

- The necessary elements of an effective harassment and discrimination policy
- Discuss how to properly investigate allegations of misconduct

Continuing Education Available:

This seminar has been submitted for approval to offer 4 HRCI credit.

This seminar has been pre-approved to offer 4 SHRM Professional Development Credit.

This seminar has been submitted for approval to offer 3.75 CLE credit.

Registration Information:

Wednesday, January 31, 2018 | 8:30 am - 12:30 pm

Holiday Inn Express, 1000 Plummer Dr., Edwardsville, IL 62025

Members of the Illinois Chamber & local chamber partners.....\$249.00

Non-Member.....\$299.00

Early Bird Discount! Save \$50 when sign up by Jan. 21st!

***To register or for more information call
Rachael Krekel at 217-522-5512 ext 227 or at rkrekel@ilchamber.org***

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business after 5



BA5 w/ Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, November 16



BA5 w/ Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, November 16



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BA5 w/ Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, November 16

ribbon cuttings



Central Illinois Care Services, November 9



Egyptian Workspace Partners, November 15

LOVE LOCAL

SHOP CHAMBER

#ShopEdGlen

Our business is to grow your business.

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

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ATTORNEYS AT LAW



Beer: Boulevard Whiskey Barrel

Availability: Year Round; Draught & bottles

Barrel-Aged Imperial Stout

Over-the-top but surprisingly approachable, this twist on the classic style starts with several types of malted barley, rye, oats and wheat. Robust flavors of vanilla, espresso, whiskey, chocolate and roasted grain are balanced by hints of date and plum, with just enough hops to round it all out. Roughly one-third of the final blend is freshly brewed beer; the rest is aged for up to a year (or more!) in both first and second use whiskey casks.

ABV= 11.8%



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BARREL
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your business

Hortica Employees Raise Impressive Funds, Donate To United Way

Hortica, a brand of the Sentry Insurance Group, is proud to announce that associates have donated \$37,000 to the Illinois Region of the United Way of Greater St. Louis. This is the first year Hortica raised money for the organization. Associates held a number of fundraising events in September to collect the money.

"Our associates are committed to helping this community," says Mona Haberer, business segment executive at Hortica. "We're pleased that we're now able to add the United Way to our efforts and excited to make it an annual event."

Sentry Insurance and its brands have long been supporters of United Way agencies where it has offices. This year, 4,000+ associates and the Sentry Insurance Foundation, Inc. – which matches associates' contributions – raised more than \$1.45 million for United Way programs.



Francie Powell and Mona Haberer from Hortica present a check to Maura Wuellner, director of the United Way of Greater St. Louis – Illinois Region.



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First Mid-Illinois Bancshares To Acquire First BancTrust Corporation

First Mid-Illinois Bancshares, Inc. ("First Mid") (NASDAQ: FMBH) and First BancTrust Corporation ("First Bank") (OTCQX:FIRT) recently announced the execution of a definitive agreement under which First Mid will acquire all of the outstanding shares of First Bank, the holding company for First Bank & Trust, IL ("First Bank & Trust"). The acquisition provides First Mid with a deeper presence in the attractive and growing Champaign-Urbana region and extends its footprint into the adjacent counties to the east of its headquarters.

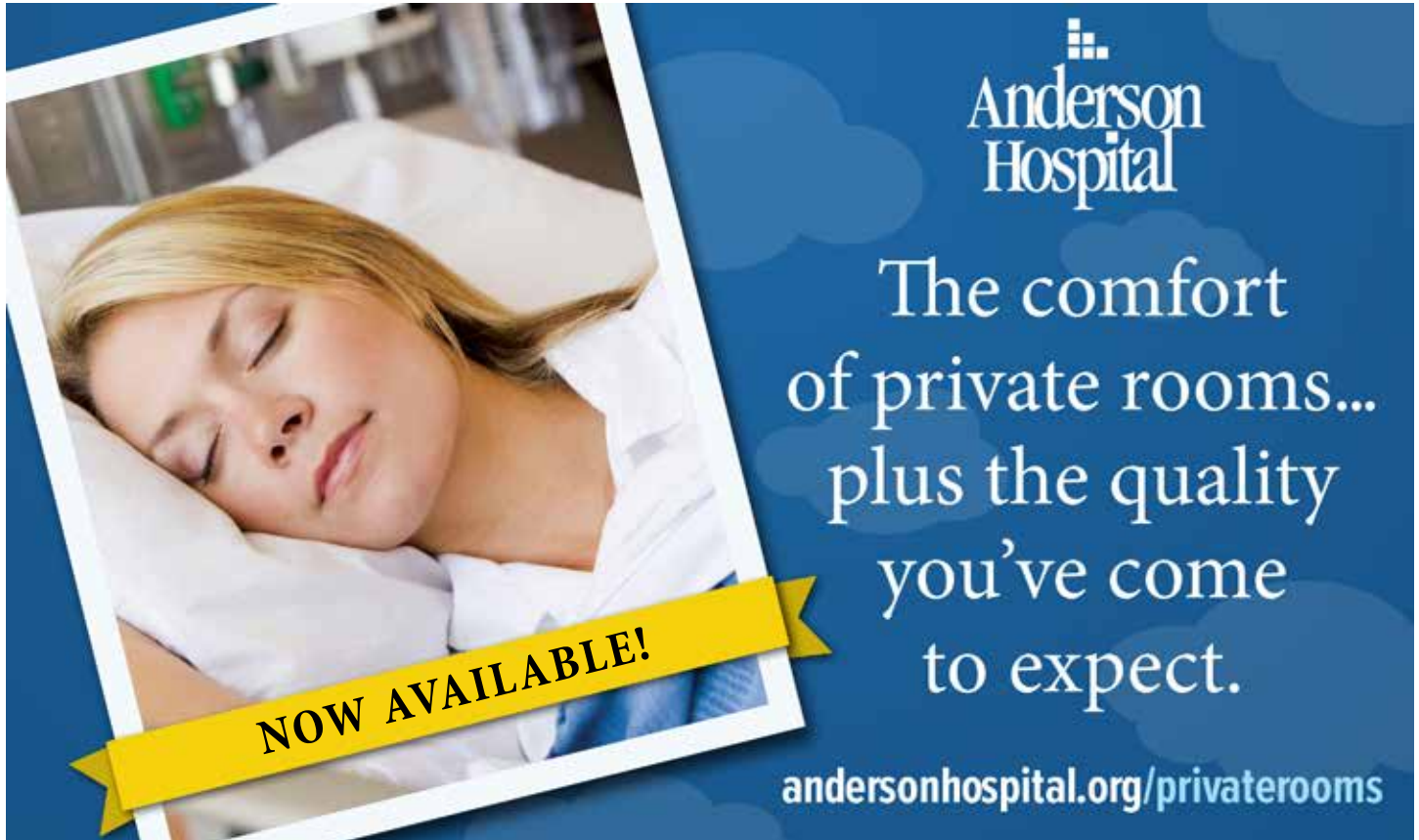
The transaction has been unanimously approved by each company's board of directors and is expected to close in mid-2018, subject to regulatory approvals, the approval of First Bank's stockholders and the satisfaction of customary closing conditions.

"The acquisition of First Bank deepens our presence in the attractive Champaign-Urbana market and provides expanded opportunities in adjacent counties," said Joe Dively, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer. "First Bank has a long history of providing excellent service with a community-minded

focus and the merged organizations will be even stronger. Finally, I am very excited to have Matt Carr join our organization with an expanded role while continuing to lead First Bank's markets."

Following completion of the transaction, First Mid is expected to have approximately \$3.3 billion in total assets. In addition, First Mid currently operates a wealth and trust management business with approximately \$1.5 billion in assets under management and an insurance business with \$3.5 million in annual revenue. First Mid has a long history of successfully acquiring and integrating businesses. First Bank represents the fourth acquisition over the last three years, including three banking institutions and one insurance business.

A slide presentation relating to the transaction can be accessed under the investor relations section of First Mid's website at www.firstmid.com. In addition, the presentation is included as an exhibit to the Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission announcing the transaction.



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Thouvenot, Wade & Moerchen, Inc. Welcomes Keller & Hanson To Team

Engineering and surveying firm Thouvenot, Wade & Moerchen, Inc. (TWM) has hired two new employees. Michael Keller, S.I.T., joins as a survey crew chief and Paul Hanson, C.F.M., will work as an engineering designer.

Keller, of Hillsboro, earned his bachelor's degree in construction management with a specialization in land surveying from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. He most recently worked for The Korte Company as a project engineer. Keller will work as part of the Swansea geospatial team performing ALTA, boundary and topographic surveys, construction layout, and more for a variety of clients.

Hanson, of Glen Carbon, has nearly 20 years of experience in municipal, transportation and land development engineering. He earned his bachelor's degree in geography from Eastern Illinois University. Hanson will be based in the TWM Edwardsville office and his responsibilities will include concept planning, building layout, public presentations, improvements plans, roadway alignments, storm water management and more for clients in both the public and private sectors.



TWM is a 100% employee-owned firm providing civil, structural and railway engineering, land surveying and a full array of geospatial services. Celebrating 71 years in business, TWM serves clients locally and throughout the U.S. With a total of five locations in the greater St. Louis region, the firm was ranked the seventh largest engineering firm in the metropolitan area by the *St. Louis Business Journal* in 2017.

An advertisement for "The Madison County-St. Clair Record". The background is a stack of papers with a pair of glasses resting on top. The text "LAWYERS IN THE KNOW" is in large, bold, red capital letters. Below it, in smaller black text, it says "The Madison County-St. Clair Record can be delivered to your home for as low as \$4.58 per edition". Further down, it says "Subscribe online today at www.madisonrecord.com/subscriptions". At the bottom, the word "READ" is in large red letters, and "THE RECORD" is in even larger red letters, with a small icon of a scale of justice to the left of "RECORD".

An advertisement for SIUE Credit Union. The background is red. On the left, the words "STRENGTH & STABILITY" are in large, bold, white capital letters. On the right is the SIUE Credit Union logo, which features a stylized figure holding a flag above the text "SIUE Credit Union". Below the logo, the text "Since 1959" is in white, and the phone number "618.650.3760" and website "siuecu.org" are also in white.

your business

Ehlke Retires After 40 Years As Course Superintendent At Oak Brook Golf Club

Over the past 40 years, there have been plenty of changes at Oak Brook Golf Club, but Fred Ehlke has been among the constants. Ehlke retired on Wednesday after 40 years as the course superintendent at Oak Brook. He plans to move to Florida later this month.

"I've lived in Highland for 50 years and I've worked here for 40 years, so it's a big change to pull up your roots and move away," Ehlke said. "It's a little bit scary, but it's also exciting to do something different."

On December 29, Ehlke and his wife, Carol, will leave for Longboat Key, FL, where they will be caretakers for a five-story, 20-unit condominium on the beach. They will be taking over for Carol's parents, who have taken care of the building for the past 14 years.

"They just need somebody to keep things nice for the people that come down there in the wintertime," said Ehlke, who has three children and one grandchild. "I'll be working six-hours days and having weekends off. I'll also be able to take a summer vacation for the first time since high school."

Oak Brook opened in 1972 as a nine-hole course and expanded to 18 holes in 1974. Owner Larry Suhre took care of the course for four years, but his father Wilbur, the course's original owner, died in 1976.

"It was really stressful because I was trying to take care of an 18-hole golf course with no background in greens keeping, but a mutual friend of ours, (longtime golf pro) Terry Houser, recommended Fred, who at the time was working at Highland Country Club," Larry said. "Fred and I got together and he's been here ever since."

"Fred has done a tremendous job. I get compliments every day on the condition of the course and the greens. He has kept us in business for 40 years."

Larry's son, Mike Suhre, is vice president of Oak Brook and a PGA teaching professional. He admits that not having Ehlke as a daily fixture on the course will be an adjustment.

"When you look at a golf course, the No. 1 thing you worry about other than customers is whether or not the greens are going to stay alive, and I can say that my dad has slept peacefully for the last 40 years," Mike said. "There's no higher compliment you can give to a superintendent than to say that the people who are signing his paycheck are very happy to be doing it."

Ehlke was 23 when he became superintendent at Oak Brook. A graduate of Highland High School, he attended Joliet Junior College for two years and got a degree in agronomy. He then spent four years as superintendent at Highland Country Club.

Ehlke's duties at Oak Brook included doing all of the watering, spraying and fertilizing on the course. He had a staff of five people working for him.

"You do different things on different days of the week, so you have a routine and the guys kind of know what to expect," Ehlke said. "At one time we had eight or nine people working here, but all of the golf courses in the area have cut back on labor so they can pay the bills. As a superintendent, you need to have a good feel for grass and a green thumb. You have to tell what's going on before the golfers can see it."

Ehlke was also in charge of the course's 87 golf carts, as well as several utility vehicles, mowers and tractors.

"He's probably got 125 pieces of equipment, so something is going on all the time," Larry Suhre said.

Even after 40 years on the job, Ehlke was still learning something new each year. He typically worked 50 to 55 hours a week. During one stretch this year, he worked 210 days in a row. With 62 men's teams and 22 women's teams in various leagues, plus open play, high school teams and events on weekends, Oak Brook is a busy place for most of the year. Thanks to Ehlke and his staff, the course remains in excellent shape.

"Every season is different. We've never had a fall like this fall where it was so dry," Ehlke said. "We had three of the hottest years ever in 2010, 2011 and 2012. It's always a challenge, but it's great working outside and seeing nature and the beauty of it all when things do go well."

Two of the biggest changes at Oak Brook during Ehlke's tenure were adding more trees on the course and the addition of nine holes (the north nine) in 1999.

"When I first came here, we hardly had any trees, but Larry bought a tree spade and he would move up some trees (from the fringe of the course) and got some trees from other people," Ehlke said. Then in 1999, we put in another nine holes. We got a computer-controlled watering system, so a lot of the work is done when I get here in the morning. We also put in a new pump house and Zoysia fairways."

Ehlke Retires After 40 Years As Course Superintendent At Oak Brook Golf Club (cont.)

Even when he was not officially on the clock, Ehlke's dedication to his job stood out.

"I'm fortunate that I live on the course, but there are many times I've gotten a text from Larry at 10:30 at night asking things like whether the watering system is on," Mike Suhre said. "I know he's going to be there at 4:30 the next morning, so that's not much sleep."

"Everybody always sees that you work on a golf course, but they don't see that it's every holiday, every weekend. When everybody else is off, Larry is working. It's very tough on a family and just as a human being, but Larry wanted to work here another 40 years, I would sign him to contract today."

Other than his actual duties on the golf course, Ehlke will also miss the employees at Oak Brook, who have become a second family to him.

"Working for the Suhres, it's like a mom and pop business. Larry and Mike are really nice to people and I think that's why they come back," Ehlke said.



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January

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
	1 <small>New Year's Day</small>	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 <small>MLK Day</small>	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30 <small>State of the Union</small>	31			

February

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 <small>Presidents' Day</small>	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

March

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 <small>St. Patrick's Day</small>
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 <small>Good Fri. Passion (begins)</small>	31

April

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
1 <small>Easter Sunday</small>	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 <small>Orthodox Easter</small>	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

May

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 <small>Mother's Day</small>	14	15	16 <small>Memorial Day (Observed)</small>	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 <small>Memorial Day</small>	29 <small>Vesak</small>	30	31		

June

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 <small>Jun. 1st/1st</small>	16
17 <small>Father's Day</small>	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

July

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
1	2	3	4 <small>Independence Day</small>	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

August

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 <small>Ed al-Adha</small>	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

September

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
						1
2	3 <small>Labor Day</small>	4	5	6	7	8
9 <small>Rosh Hashana (begins)</small>	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18 <small>Rosh Hashana (begins)</small>	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

October

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
	1 <small>Yom Kippur (begins)</small>	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 <small>Columbus Day</small>	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

November

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
				1	2	3
4	5	6 <small>Election Day</small>	7 <small>Oweel</small>	8	9	10
11	12 <small>Veterans' Day (Observed)</small>	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 <small>Thanksgiving Day</small>	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

December

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
						1
2 <small>Hanukkah (begins)</small>	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25 <small>Christmas Day</small>	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Illinois Chamber of Commerce: New Laws Going Into Effect January 1

NEW ILLINOIS LAWS GOING INTO EFFECT JANUARY 1, 2018: On January 1, 2018, **215 new laws** will officially go into effect in Illinois. The Illinois Chamber of Commerce was successful in 2017 to minimize legislation that was opposed by the Chamber. However several pieces of legislation that pertain to the business community will go into effect on January 1, 2018. The following list provides a brief synopsis of business-related laws.

BUSINESS REGULATION

Public Act 100-0486 requires an LLC to first obtain a certificate of registration before providing professional services.

Public Act 100-0269 provides for specific notice requirements from lessor to lessee regarding disposition of security deposits. The lessor must – in person or by postmarked mail – deliver receipts or costs of repairs.

Public Act 100-0166 expands the cyberstalking offense to include installing tracking software and causing threats.

Public Act 100-0194 provides any individual who has completed a minimum of eight hours of Department of Public Health-approved training shall be considered a certified food sanitation manager or certified food sanitation manager instructor. Removes provisions allowing DPH to charge a \$35 fee for a certificate.

Public Act 100-0240 amends the Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act to add a non-disparagement clause in consumer contracts.

EDUCATION

Public Act 100-0174 provides that the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) must post resources regarding teaching entrepreneurial skills in secondary schools. States that the ISBE shall gather input from universities and business groups when developing the list of resources.

Public Act 100-0175 requires ISBE to post resources on the teaching of high skilled manufacturing to be used in high schools and vocational education programs.

HEALTHCARE & INSURANCE

Public Act 100-0543 would require life insurance companies to cross-match lapsed or expired policies against the Social Security Administration's Death Master File to find potential beneficiaries of unclaimed life insurance benefits. The bill, as passed both chambers, requires all insurers to search policies in force as of Jan. 1, 2012, and to Jan. 1, 2000 if a company has electronically-searchable records.

Public Act 100-0475 removes requirements that the notice of cancellation be mailed by an insurance company to the mortgage or lien holder at the last mailing address known by the company.

Public Act 100-0378 clarifies chiropractic physicians' and licensed optometrists' rights and responsibilities and that the consent protections currently provided to minors under the Consent by Minors to Medical Procedures Act apply to the performance of health care services by chiropractic physicians and licensed optometrists.

Public Act 100-0386 provides that no policy of individual or group accident and health insurance issued, amended, delivered, or renewed on or after the effective date of this amendatory Act, may impose any preexisting condition exclusion with respect to that plan or coverage. Supplemental policies are exempted from this mandate.

Public Act 100-0495 allows for the electronic delivery of auto insurance documents.

TAX

Public Act 100-0348 allows the Fire Protection District Board of Trustees to levy a special tax for expenses for emergency and rescue crews and equipment via referendum.

Public Act 100-0551 would unjustly punish companies who engage in perfectly legal federal tax planning retroactively. Under the bill, the state would prohibit so-called "expatriated entities" who have engaged in corporate inversions from bidding on state contracts and prohibits the state's pension systems from investing in the stock of such companies. As a matter of fundamental tax policy, the Chamber opposes using the state's procurement code to punish companies for engaging in legally permitted federal tax planning.

Public Act 100-0022, otherwise known as tax omnibus bill, that among other things included the new income tax rates, has provisions that are set to go into law Jan. 1 2018. While majority of the tax provisions are already in effect, two pertinent articles (Art. 15 and 17) make sweeping changes to the state's unclaimed property statutes. The most concerning aspects of the law would strip away the business-to-business exemption and allow third party auditors to retroactively audit businesses that have unclaimed property. The Chamber is working on legislation for 2018 to mitigate these provisions.

Public Act 100-0437 eliminates the use tax up front and instead applies it to the final sale, so that rental purchase companies can warehouse in Illinois and lease to multi-state clients in border communities.

Public Act 100-0328 extends the Angel Investment Tax Credit from December 31, 2016 to December 31, 2021.

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Public Act 100-0343 changes the maximum semi-trailer length on all nonstate highways from 55 to 65 feet.

Public Act 100-0160 provides that semitrucks be subject to a safety test at an official testing station at least every 12 months (rather than six months as provided by current law).

Public Act 100-0209 creates three new classifications of electric bicycles and allows local authorities to regulate low-speed electric and gas-bicycles.

Public Act 100-0423 requires each Class I railroad to submit an annual report containing procurement goals and actual spending for female-owned, minority-owned, veteran-owned and small business enterprises.

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