

May 2017



Edwardsville | Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce

It's everyone's business.

Common Ground

golf tournament: **july 28**

registration & sponsorship deadline: **july 17**



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ceo@edglenchamber.com

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

Annual Ed/Glen Chamber Golf Challenge: July 28 – Sponsor, Play & Donate!

Registration is open for the 2017 Annual Ed/Glen Chamber Golf Challenge. We invite you to sign up to golf at Edwardsville's beautiful **Oak Brook Golf Club Friday, July 28** and plan a fun day of networking, golf and leisure. This is a great opportunity for team building, treating your current or prospective clients, and rewarding your employees.

If you are unable to golf, consider promoting your business through an event sponsorship to the more than 100 local community and business leaders who golf in our annual tournament. Levels range from a \$125 'Tee Sponsor' to a \$2,500 'Chairman's Circle' investment, offering a broad variety of benefits and options to fit any marketing budget.

The registration form and sponsorship information are available on pages 4 and 5 of this publication, and may also be found online at www.edglenchamber.com. Please call 618.656.7600 or email office@edglenchamber.com regarding sponsorships.

Guiding Principles

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

2017 Ambassadors

Breck Newman, HireLevel

Lisa Allen, Allen Insurance Group

Brendan Barone, Kunkel Commercial Group

Jeremy Colton, Big Frog Custom T-Shirts & More

James DeMoulin, First Clover Leaf Bank

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Mary Jo Smith, Hospice of Southern Illinois

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* denotes committee chair



special investors

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Gateway Regional Medical Center

Silver Level

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AT&T Mobility Edwardsville
Hortica Insurance & Employee Benefits
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Sandberg Phoenix & von Gontard, PC
Scott Credit Union
TheBANK of Edwardsville
Walgreens
Walmart of Glen Carbon

Bronze Level

1st MidAmerica Credit Union
Associated Bank
Breakthru Beverage Illinois
Bull & Bear Grill & Bar
Cassens & Sons
Cassens Transport
Castelli's Moonlight Restaurant at 255
City of Edwardsville
CTS Technology Solutions, Inc.
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Eden Village Retirement Community
Edwardsville CUSD #7
Edwardsville Intelligencer
First Clover Leaf Bank
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Spectrum Business
Village of Glen Carbon
Volkert, Inc.
West & Company, LLC

Premier Level

1818 Chophouse
A Julian Felix Beattique
AAIC, Inc.
ABRA Auto Body & Glass
Abstracts & Tiles 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
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
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KinderCare Learning Center
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Louer Facility Planning, Inc.
Magnuson Camelot Hotel
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Plocher Construction Company, Inc.
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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.
Wang Gang Asian

save the date

6/6&7 Tuesday & Wednesday

Illinois Chamber of Commerce
& U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Critical Infrastructure Summit
Gateway Center
One Gateway Drive
Collinsville, IL 62234
RSVP at ilchamber.org/events

6/13 Tuesday 7:15-8am

Morning B2B Connections
Source Juicery
220 North Main Street
Edwardsville, IL 62025

6/15 Thursday 5-7pm

Business After 5
Hosted by Bella Milano, First
Mid-Illinois Bank & Trust, Gori
Julian & Associates, Korte &
Luitjohan & Robert 'Chick' Fritz
N.O. Nelson Leclair Room
600 Troy Road
Edwardsville, IL 62025

6/20 Tuesday 10am-4pm

Illinois Chamber of Commerce
Workers' Compensation
Workshop for Illinois Employers
Holiday Inn Express & Suites
1000 Plummer Drive
Edwardsville, IL 62025
RSVP at ilchamber.org/events

7/20 Thursday 5-7pm

Business After 5
Stillwater Senior Living
1111 University Drive
Edwardsville, IL 62025

7/28 Friday 7:30am

Ed/Glen Chamber
Annual Golf Tournament
Oak Brook Golf Club
9157 Fruit Road
Edwardsville, IL 62025

8/8 Tuesday 7:15-8am

Morning B2B Connections
Source Juicery
220 North Main Street
Edwardsville, IL 62025

8/17 Thursday 5-7pm

Business After 5
Ruth's House by
Cedarhurst Assisted Living
7325 Marine Road
Edwardsville, IL 62025

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2017 Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber Golf Challenge

Friday, July 28 at Oak Brook Golf Club

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

Name _____

Company _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ Work Phone _____

Team Captain Email _____ Team Captain Cell # (in case of inclement weather) _____

_____ We would like to **sponsor** at the _____ level at \$ _____

_____ Please reserve _____ **foursome(s)** at \$500 each. Names are listed below.

_____ Please reserve _____ **twosome(s)** at \$250 each. Names are listed below.

_____ Please reserve _____ **individual ticket(s)** at \$130 each. Place me with a team.

_____ I would like to participate in the **skins game** at \$20 per team.

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

Player 1 _____ Player 2 _____

Player 3 _____ Player 4 _____

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

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

Tournament Includes

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

Schedule of Events

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

Flight Winner Awards

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

Proceeds Advance the Ed/Glen Chamber's Mission

**Edwardsville/Glen Carbon
Chamber of Commerce**

1 North Research Drive
Edwardsville, IL 62025

618.656.7600 edglenchamber.com



Golf Challenge Sponsorships

Promote your business to more than 100 golfers including chamber members & area community/business leaders!

Information must be received by July 17 to guarantee full benefits. Payment must accompany registration.

Chairman's Circle

\$2,500

- Exclusive event sponsor w/ tournament naming rights
- Welcome message at reception
- 1 team (4 players plus carts)
- Separate corporate logo display
- Table available to advertise, pass out gifts & interact with participants
- 3 tee sponsorships
- Full-page color ad in event program
- Certificate for full-page color ad in *Common Ground* (chamber newsletter)

Vice Chairman's Circle

\$1,500

- 1 team (4 players plus carts)
- Tables available to advertise, pass out gifts & interact with participants
- 2 tee sponsorships
- Half-page color ad in event program
- Certificate for half-page color ad in *Common Ground* (chamber newsletter)

Golf Cart Sponsors

\$650

- Limited to four businesses
- Company logo on front of all golf carts
- Sign at registration table before and during tournament
- Eighth-page color ad in event program
- Certificate for quarter-page color ad in *Common Ground* (chamber newsletter)

Post-Party Lunch Host

\$650

- Limited to two businesses
- Signage on all dining & buffet tables
- Table available to advertise and share gifts/promotional items with participants
- Eighth page color ad in event program
- Certificate for quarter-page color ad in *Common Ground* (chamber newsletter)

Putting Green Sponsor

\$650

- Exclusive sponsorship
- Sole sponsor sign in practice green area before & during tournament
- Use as an opportunity to pass out golf balls or gifts or visit with golfers
- Honor or delivering prize for low score on putting contest during awards ceremony
- Eighth-page color ad in event program
- Certificate for quarter-page color ad in *Common Ground* (chamber newsletter)

On-Course Food/Bev Sponsors

\$650

- Limited to six businesses
- Sign at grill area before & during tournament
- Signs on beverage carts & beverage tent set throughout the course
- Tables available to advertise, pass out gifts & interact with participants
- Eighth-page color ad in event program
- Certificate for quarter-page color ad in *Common Ground* (chamber newsletter)

Hole In One Sponsor

\$650

- Logo/listing in all event programs, website & *Common Ground*
- Provides car at designated hole in one green

Exclusive Hole Sponsor

\$250

- 1 exclusive hole sponsorship (sign provided by chamber; 18 available)
- Opportunity to host a tent (supplied by sponsor) at designated hole
- Opportunity to advertise, pass out gifts & interact with participants
- Eighth-page color ad in event program
- Certificate for quarter-page color ad in *Common Ground* (chamber newsletter)

Tee Sponsor

\$125

- Unlimited number of tee sponsorships available
- Placed along cart paths in high visibility areas

Cash & Prize Donation

- Donate cash, a door prize or contest prize (value of approximately \$25-\$100)

TOURNAMENT DATE: FRIDAY, JULY 28
TOURNAMENT TEE TIME: 7:30AM

All Sponsorships Include:

- Logo/listing in all event programs, website & *Common Ground*
- Online & social media recognition leading up to tournament

Edwardsville/Glen Carbon
Chamber of Commerce

1 North Research Drive
Edwardsville, IL 62025
618.656.7600 edglenchamber.com



connect

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

60+ YEARS

TheBANK of Edwardsville
Cassens & Sons
Cassens Insurance
Donnewald Distributing
Edwardsville Intelligencer
First Mid-Illinois Bank & Trust

Kitchenland
Madison Mutual Insurance Co.
Southern IL Underwriters
Agency, Inc.
US Bank

50-59 YEARS

Hawthorne Animal Hospital

40-49 YEARS

Market Basket
McCarthy & Allen, Attorneys at Law

30-39 YEARS

Glik's Department Store
Inlandesign

20-29 YEARS

Greater Gateway Assoc. of REALTORS
Belleville News Democrat
Dobbs Tire & Auto Center
Metro East Humane Society

10-19 YEARS

Edwardsville Dairy Queen
Keith A. Bryant, DMD, PC
Culver's of Edwardsville

Lincoln School Alumni Foundation
Illinois Heartland Library System

5-9 YEARS

Auto Body Shop, Inc.
YCG Accounting
DK Power, Heating & Cooling, LLC

CompuType, Inc.
Franklin & Vaughn, LLC

1-4 YEARS

State Farm Insurance - Rick Marteeny
Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP
Edward Jones Investments - Tim Mahnesmith
Northwestern Mutual
Goshen Coffee Company

Visiting Angels of Edwardsville
Madison County Historical Society
The UPS Store

Lewis and Clark N.O. Nelson Campus
Benedictine University at Springfield
Angle & Company Home Improvement & Painting
Mosquito Joe of Madison County
Cricket Wireless - Gateway

the newly connected

Hawkeye Systems

Ty Van Ryswyk
In-Ground Lawn Sprinklers, Insect
Misting Systems & Cloudburst
Cooling Systems
220 North Duncan Street
Marine, IL 62061
618-887-9440
www.hawkeyesystems.net

Heather Mohr Photography

Heather Mohr
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Baby's First Year Photography
2711 Cabin Creek Court
Edwardsville, IL 62025
314-488-7150
www.heathermohrphotography.com

Kerber, Eck & Braeckel, LLP

Jenny Zipprich
Accounting, Tax, Audit,
Consulting & Financial Services
2 Sunset Hills Executive Drive,
Suite 5
Edwardsville, IL 62025
314-880-9360
www.kebcpa.com

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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.

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This essential conference will highlight and showcase the importance of the Metro East & St. Louis region to the U.S. infrastructure and health of our nation's economy. This includes energy, telecommunications, utilities, freight and more.

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SCHEDULE

JUNE 6

12:30 – 5:00 pm

Afternoon tours of coal mine and powerplant at Prairie State Generating Campus, plus St. Louis Freight Assets tour. Evening reception to follow.

JUNE 7

8:00 am – 3:15 pm

Conference & Expo

Features:

- Role of Federal Government in Resilient Infrastructure
- Role of Businesses in St. Louis for Resilient Infrastructure
- Overview of St. Louis Region Freight and its importance to the North American Freight Network
- Regional Infrastructure Discussion
- Energy Panel Discussion
- More to be announced

EARLY BIRD PRICE\$100

(until May 26, 2017)

MEMBER PRICE\$150

(members of marketing partner chambers)

NON-MEMBER\$200

Includes all tours, evening reception, all materials and handouts, all speakers, access to exhibit hall, continental breakfast and lunch.

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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



To register or for more info:

ilchamber.org/events or call Kelli Jessup at (217) 522-5512 ext 227 or kjessup@ilchamber.org

business of the month

COMPANY HISTORY: Highland Recycling & Shredding (HRS) was founded in 1996 by Rick and Deb Frey. Luke Harris, a Glen Carbon resident, purchased the business on January 1, 2011. The company's services include confidential shredding, industrial recycling and scrap metal purchasing. The confidential shredding business continues to grow as HRS has added the entire St. Louis region and now all of Southern Illinois with the purchase of a shredding company in Carterville, IL.

ECONOMIC IMPACT: Besides having many employees from the Edwardsville/Glen Carbon market, HRS provides confidential shredding for many Edwardsville/Glen Carbon customers which helps them stay compliant in protecting their customers' and their company's sensitive documents.

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT: HRS provides many free shredding services for charities in the Edwardsville/Glen Carbon area. In addition, the staff at HRS support many community organizations – the owner serves as vice president of St. Vincent DePaul of Edwardsville, which serves families in financial needs in all of the municipalities within in the boundaries of Edwardsville Community Unit School District #7.

WORKFORCE COMMITMENT: HRS is committed to hiring workers who want to continue their college education, as more than one-third of the company's employees attend college while working for HRS. HRS provides flexible hours to ensure employees meet their college commitments and stay on track for graduation. HRS's culture is built on a 'code of honor' through which all workers commit to treating one another – and their customers – with the same respect they expect from others. HRS provides guidance on how to communicate to prevent team deterioration. The company's organizational chart is a pyramid, but it stands upside-down – managers are there to support employees and Harris is there to support management and staff. "It is not in my job description" is not part of the company culture. Everyone works as a team, everyone supports each other, and when there is something that needs to get done everyone works to complete the task. Employees are empowered to make decisions. And employees are asked for their expert advice because they know how to perform their jobs more effectively than management.

CHARACTER: HRS is a faith-led company where customers are treated just as the employees like to be treated – fairly and with respect. The HRS team doesn't believe in shortcuts. Each customer is viewed as a gift that should be cherished and not taken for granted.

LEADERSHIP: Owner Luke Harris serves as vice president of St. Vincent DePaul – Edwardsville Chapter, and as chairman of the village of Glen Carbon's resident advisory board.



EXCELLENCE: HRS has been a National Association for Information Destruction (NAID) Certified Shredding Provider for the past five years – only approximately 60% of all shredding companies are NAID certified, and this certification requires rigorous annual unannounced audits for continued certification. In addition, all employees have been NAID tested and pass an annual exam to qualify to work in HRS's shredding part of the business. Harris is a Certified Secure Destruction Specialist. Examples of HRS exceeding best practices include: HRS shreds all documents from customers within one business day – industry practice is three business days; HRS shreds all special shred project documents within five business days – industry practice is 15 business days; and HRS utilizes the latest cell phone technology to provide document GPS tracking and route management – the industry standard only requires companies to print out current routes and requires no tracking of customer documents while en route to facility.

INNOVATION: HRS is a service-oriented company where everyone is focused on serving its customers as they want to be treated. The company's code of honor empowers staff to make decisions on their own but has the focus of its customers. HRS builds trust with its customers by utilizing state-of-the-art technology to ensure consistent service with flexibility to meet customers' needs. The differentiating factor is the personal service HRS provides. Their customers never get an answering machine or automated attendant; they get a human answering every call which can answer their question or provide on-the-spot service. HRS has a stable, experienced staff who can serve as expert advisors to clients. The business is built on trust.

FUTURE FOCUS: HRS recently purchased a shredding company in Carterville, IL which has grown the company's territory to the entire southern reaches of the state. Harris continues to look for opportunities to grow the HRS brand in the Metro East as well as St. Louis. HRS's latest acquisition has increased the company's staff by two full-time-equivalent positions and HRS will continue building its customer base.

schmooze

business after 5



Brickman Orthodontics, April 20



Brickman Orthodontics, April 20



Brickman Orthodontics, April 20



Brickman Orthodontics, April 20



Brickman Orthodontics, April 20



Brickman Orthodontics, April 20

ribbon cuttings



Klaussner Home Store, April 10



Comfort Inn, April 11

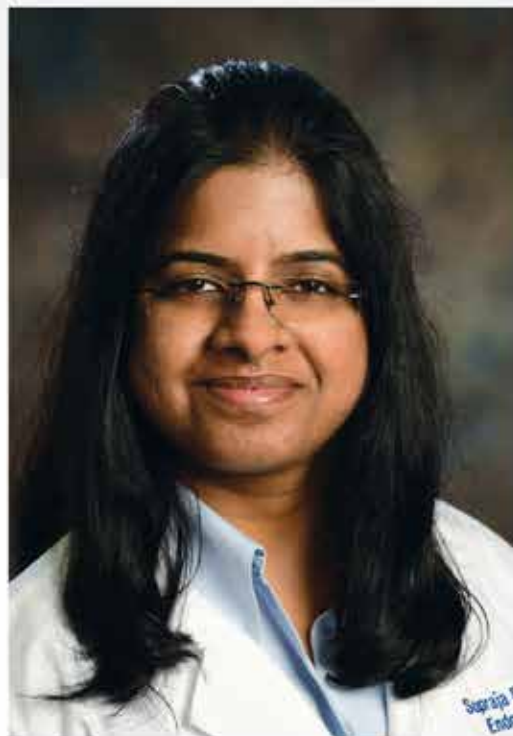


Partners For Pets, April 12



Metro East Humane Society, April 18

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your business

Alliance Technologies Announces New Hire

Alliance Technologies LLC. announces Alan Riedisser has joined the firm as the new help desk analyst. Riedisser will assist Alliance clients with IT and network management solutions to maintain optimal business success. Alan has more than 20 years of experience in information technology. His background includes nine years as a consultant and sales representative, focusing on client and vendor relationships, as well as hardware and software. He is a graduate of the University of Missouri – St. Louis, where he earned a bachelor's degree in business administration, with an emphasis in accounting. Alan, a Missouri native, currently resides in Holiday Shores, IL.



First-Mid's Beesley Ranked 12th In Nation

Brad Beesley, executive vice president, Trust and Wealth Management with First Mid-Illinois Bank & Trust, has been named one of *Bank Investment Consultant's* 'Top 25 Program Managers,' ranking 12th in the nation. Factors considered in this year's ranking were the team's total assets under management, growth in team annual production, growth in team assets, average production per advisor, and number of advisors under the managers' direct supervision.



"Being named one of the top program managers in the country is a great confirmation of the outstanding work completed by Brad and his team," said Joe Dively, president and CEO. "Under his leadership, the goal is to provide the highest quality customer service and counsel to our customers and receiving this award is a tribute to that dedication."



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Jeremiah Johnson Band and Johnny Holzum & Well Hungarians To Headline At Route 66 Festival

Another eventful weekend full of exciting entertainment, food and fun has been planned for the 2017 Edwardsville Route 66 Festival being held in City Park on June 9 & 10. Start your summer off right by participating in this annual community event, celebrating its 20th year, with live music performances, amazing food, and one-of-a-kind art by local vendors and much more.

"This family-friendly event is one of the highlights of summer in Edwardsville. Children will love the different activity tables, face painting, bounce houses, a climbing wall, and Me2You Gaming Truck on Saturday. The event also offers festival-goers a beer garden, live music, trolley rides and the ever-popular classic car cruise and show, which starts at the Cassens and MCT parking lots just a block away from the festival," said Katie Grable of City of Edwardsville Parks & Recreation. The Catapults will open up for the headlining act on Friday night starting at 6:30pm. Jeremiah Johnson Band will take the stage and perform from 9–11:30 pm.

This year's 20th anniversary celebration will also include two very popular events: the Metro Milers 10k Run and the Trailnet Route 66 Bicycle Ride. Information can be found on the Edwardsville Route 66 Facebook page or by going to www.EdwardsvilleRoute66.com if you're interested in signing up. Complete festival information is also available on the Route 66 website for up-to-date live music and fun.

The headlining act for Saturday evening is Johnny Holzum & Well Hungarians – the ever-popular rock band that fans with all musical tastes can enjoy. The band will take the stage at 9pm and close down the festival at 11:30pm on Saturday evening. Mark your calendar now and gather your friends to enjoy a weekend full of music and great memories.

Current sponsors include Mother Road Sponsor Cork Tree Creative; Hot Rod Sponsors to include Renewal By Anderson, Byron Carlson Petri & Kalb, LLC; The Roadster Sponsors include Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, Inc. and Madison Mutual Insurance Company.



The poster is divided into two main sections. The left section features a map background with the text '20th ANNIVERSARY' in large red letters, 'EDWARDSVILLE ROUTE 66 FESTIVAL' in large black letters, and 'JUNE 9 & 10 | CITY PARK' at the bottom. A small 'Route 66' shield logo is in the top left. The right section has a dark background with the text 'COME GET YOUR KICKS AT THE ROUTE 66 FESTIVAL' in white. Below this is a list of activities: 'The always-popular classic car show and cruise', 'Live music by The Catapults & Jeremiah Johnson Band on Friday Night', 'Goose Miller Band & Johnny Holzum and Well Hungarians on Saturday Night', 'Fabulous food and drinks', 'Historic displays', 'Inflatables', 'Rock Climbing Wall', and 'Gaming Truck'. Logos for 'Cork Tree Creative' and 'City of Edwardsville' are on the right, and the website 'www.edwardsvillerroute66.com' is at the bottom.

20th ANNIVERSARY

EDWARDSVILLE ROUTE 66 FESTIVAL

JUNE 9 & 10 | CITY PARK

COME GET YOUR KICKS AT THE ROUTE 66 FESTIVAL

- The always-popular classic car show and cruise
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- Historic displays
- Inflatables
- Rock Climbing Wall
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Plummer Honored As One Of NRHA's 2017 Young Retailers Of The Year

Jason Plummer, vice president of R.P. Lumber, was recently named one of the hardware industry's 2017 Young Retailers of the Year award recipients by the North American Retail Hardware Association (NRHA). The award, now in its 21st year, identifies and promotes the next generation of aspiring independent home improvement retailers, recognizing individual achievement by industry retailers age 35 and younger throughout the United States and Canada.

Plummer was honored at an event May 8 in Las Vegas as part of the National Hardware Show and NRHA All-Industry Conference. Plummer's commitment to excellence is shown in his dedication to constantly improving and growing R.P. Lumber, one of the largest family-owned hardware, lumber and building material dealers in the country. Plummer is involved in numerous functions at R.P. Lumber, including new store development, finance, merchandising, purchasing and operations. Plummer also pointed out the close-knit organization at R.P. as a key strength of the company.

"My parents and my sisters work in the business," he added. "It is a blessing to be able to work every day with your family and the many great team members we have at R.P. This year is our 40th anniversary, and we have a lot of team members who have been with us 20, 25 and 30-plus years – a real testament to the company and our team."

R.P. Lumber was founded by Jason's parents, Robert and Donna Plummer, in 1977, with one store in Staunton, IL. The company has since grown to 66 locations across Illinois and Missouri and recently launched a new inventory and merchandising program that will roll out to all their locations this year.

"My goal is to make sure our team members and existing stores are constantly improving," said Plummer. "We want to perform at our best so we can deliver R.P.'s Best Service and Best Value, our hallmark."

Additionally, Plummer is working on expanding R.P. Lumber's digital capabilities, recently rolling out a new website and entering a partnership with an ecommerce platform, allowing the company to offer more than 100,000 items for sale online. Other future initiatives include opening additional stores in 2017 and expanding R.P.'s kitchen and bath business.

Plummer consistently works to improve himself professionally by staying up to date with trends and being involved within the industry. He's on the board of the Illinois Lumber and Material Dealers Association and remains active with other organizations such as the Illinois Business Alliance and numerous chambers of commerce as a voice for business in regard to government



regulations, taxation, and other issues impacting employment, growth and economic opportunity.

"To be selected as a Young Retailer of the Year is a high honor, one that Jason Plummer has earned through his dedication to business improvement and passion for his community," says Bill Lee, NRHA president and CEO. "The industry anticipates the selection of the program honorees every year, and we're thrilled to celebrate Jason's extraordinary accomplishments."

This isn't the only recent national recognition for the Plummer family. *Hardware + Building Supply Dealer* (H+BSD), a national publication covering the home improvement industry, named R.P. Lumber its 2017 Hardware All-Star for the state of Illinois. R.P. Lumber was the only company in the state, and one of only 50 nationwide, to be selected for All-Star status. The magazine's editors select their All-Stars based on an extensive range of business criteria, including longevity, growth, employee development and retention, creativity and local involvement. In recognizing R.P. Lumber, H+BSD highlighted the company on "the strength of its story as a classic American success" and its consistent growth over the past four decades.

"We're honored and grateful to receive this recognition and be counted among such a select group of successful independent home improvement businesses across the country," said Plummer. "Our entire team works hard to build relationships, go the extra mile for our customers and provide them the best experience possible. This recognition wouldn't be possible without our team's efforts and customers' support."

R.P. Lumber is backed by the strength of its status as a member-owner of Do it Best Corp., a US-based hardware, lumber and building materials co-op with thousands of independently owned locations in the United States and 52 other countries.



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Illinois Chamber of Commerce To Host Critical Infrastructure Summit June 6 & 7

This was published by the Illinois Chamber of Commerce in a recent 'Message from the President' email.

Over the last decade, the U.S. has been dealing with more disasters. Hurricane Katrina, Superstorm Sandy, the Polar Vortex, and human actions are all things that have disrupted not only the everyday lives of people but also their ability to conduct business. Now more than ever it is crucial for businesses to prepare for disasters and know how to react when they strike.



That's why the Illinois Chamber of Commerce is proud to partner with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the Missouri Chamber of Commerce to host the Critical Infrastructure Summit in Collinsville, Illinois June 6th and 7th.

This event will showcase the importance of the Metro-East and St. Louis region's infrastructure assets to our nation's economy while taking one big step toward bridging the divide between the public and private sectors to ensure that our infrastructure is prepared for whatever happens next. Included in this broad portfolio is protection of our electric suppliers, the movement of freight, and clean and waste water systems, to name a few.

It is important for businesses of all sizes to know what policies exist to address critical infrastructure as well as understand what key industries are doing to ensure their infrastructure is resilient, and how that helps their business succeed. To thrive, we need to work together and understand the abilities and limitations of the public and private sectors.

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- International Keynote: Energy and Infrastructure Opportunities in the U.K. Sam Hollis, Vice Consul on Energy, Environment & Infrastructure, Department for International Trade, British Consulate-General Chicago
- Morning Keynote on Public-Private Partnerships and their Role in Critical Infrastructure by Sam Beydoun, Bureau Chief, Innovative Project Delivery, Illinois Department of Transportation
- Closing Keynote: Lt. Col. Scott Bryant, Commander, 375th Civil Engineer Squadron - Department of Defense Logistics and Reliance on Regional Infrastructure for Success
- Overview of the St. Louis Region Freight and its Importance to the North American Freight Network moderated by Mary C. Lamie of the St. Louis Regional Freightway
- Lunch Fireside chat on the Impact of Federal Policies on Critical Infrastructure, with Ed Mortimer, Transportation & Infrastructure, U.S. Chamber of Commerce & Heath Knakmuhs, Institute for 21st Century Energy, U.S. Chamber of Commerce
- Panel Discussion: How Today's Smarter Energy Infrastructure is Powering Local Business Growth
- Panel Discussion: Collaboration & Focused Efforts: How do We Work Together?
- Discussion on Water Infrastructure & Future Preparedness featuring Illinois American Water
- Featuring key leaders from different levels of government

On June 6th, there is limited space for tours of the Prairie State Generating Campus as well as a freight assets tour hosted by the Terminal Railroad of St. Louis, followed by an opening reception in Collinsville.

We're excited to bring this event to the St. Louis region and provide this opportunity for our members. We hope you can join us, and look forward to seeing you in early June.

Sign up online at ilchamber.org/events/



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