

September 2017



Edwardsville | Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce

Business Builds: Economies. Leaders. Communities.

Common Ground

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
EDWARDSVILLE
FOUNDATION

SIUe DAY 2017

Networking Breakfast

Thursday, Oct. 12, 2017

8-9:30 a.m.

Student Design Center
School of Engineering



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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

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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

SIUE Community Day 2017

The 12th annual **SIUE Day Community Breakfast** will be hosted in the SIUE School of Engineering Student Design Center from **8-9:30am Thursday, October 12**. This year's program will feature **Jonathan Fowler of J.F. Electric, Inc.**, an SIUE School of Engineering graduate and a member of the Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce board of directors. The Ed/Glen Chamber has played a key role in helping connect the business community with Southern Illinois University Edwardsville since the educational institution was founded in 1957. The Ed/Glen Chamber continues this tradition through its role in SIUE Day. Chamber members are invited and encouraged to attend this year's SIUE Day Community Breakfast. **RSVP to 618.650.2378 or siue_day@siue.edu**.

"Visionaries in the business community, through their role in the Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce, helped to spearhead SIUE's formation more than 60 years ago. We are proud to continue the tradition of partnership with the university each year through SIUE Day," said Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce President & CEO Desirée Bennyhoff.

May 5, 1955: At a meeting in the First National Bank building, the board members of the Edwardsville Chamber of Commerce established a College Planning Committee under the chairmanship of George L. Moorman, Sr. The committee formulated plans to invite representatives of the University of Illinois and Southern Illinois University to meet with them in order to discuss ways and means of establishing a public institution of higher learning in Southwestern Illinois.



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Bella Milano Edwardsville
Best Western Plus Pontoon Beach
Big Daddy's Edwardsville
Brain Balance Achievement Centers
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University Nursing & Rehab Center
US Bank
Vision For Life
Visionary Wealth Advisors
Viviano Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc.
Wang Gang Asian

save the date

10/4 Wednesday 8-9pm

Chamber Q&A: Maximize Your Membership
Ed/Glen Chamber Office
1 North Research Drive
Edwardsville, IL 62025
RSVP at edglenchamber.com

10/10 Tuesday 7:15-8am

Morning B2B Connections
Source Juicery
220 North Main Street
Edwardsville, IL 62025
RSVP at edglenchamber.com

10/11 Wednesday 4pm

Ribbon Cutting
Where They Room
303 North Main Street
Edwardsville, IL 62025

10/12 Thursday 8-9:30am

SIUE Day
SIUE School of Engineering
Student Design Center
Edwardsville, IL 62026
RSVP to 618.650.2378 or siue_day@siue.edu

10/19 Thursday 4pm

Ribbon Cutting
1st MidAmerica Credit Union
1702 Troy Road
Edwardsville, IL 62025

10/19 Thursday 5-7pm

Business After 5
1st MidAmerica Credit Union
1702 Troy Road
Edwardsville, IL 62025

10/20 Friday 10am

Ribbon Cutting
Hansen Meat Company
1059 Century Drive
Edwardsville, IL 62025

10/23 Monday 5-6pm

Economic Development Community Advisory Committee w/ Rep. Katie Stuart
City Hall - Council Chambers
118 Hillsboro Avenue
Edwardsville, IL 62025

10/31 Tuesday 6:30pm

Annual Ed/Glen Chamber Halloween Parade
Downtown Edwardsville

11/7 Tuesday 8-9am

ACCELERATE w/ ECUSD#7 Superintendent Dr. Lynda Andre
Holiday Inn Express & Suites
1000 Plummer Drive
Edwardsville, IL 62025

11/8 Wednesday 8-9pm

Chamber Q&A: Maximize Your Membership
Ed/Glen Chamber Office
1 North Research Drive
Edwardsville, IL 62025
RSVP at edglenchamber.com

11/14 Tuesday 12-1pm

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

11/15 Wednesday 11:30am

Ribbon Cutting
Egyptian Workspace Partners
129 West Main Street
Belleville, IL 62226

11/16 Thursday 5-7pm

Business After 5
SIUE: Birger Hall Events Rom
30 North Circle Drive
Edwardsville, IL 62026

11/25 Saturday 8am

Small Business Saturday & Ed/Glen Chamber's LOVE Local, SHOP Chamber Kickoff
Local Business Venues

12/6 Wednesday 8-9pm

Chamber Q&A: Maximize Your Membership
Ed/Glen Chamber Office
1 North Research Drive
Edwardsville, IL 62025
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12/12 Tuesday 7:15-8am

Morning B2B Connections
Source Juicery
220 North Main Street
Edwardsville, IL 62025
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12/21 Thursday 5-7pm

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

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

30-39 YEARS

**Eberhart Sign & Lighting Company
YMCA Edwardsville**

**Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Elite Properties
Hortica Insurance & Employee Benefits**

20-29 YEARS

**Fox Creek Golf Club
Corporate & Community Learning at Lewis and Clark
Lexow Financial Group**

10-19 YEARS

**Marcel Brown Technology Services
AAA Missouri
Commerce Bank
Cork Tree Creative
Junior Service Club**

**Metro Eye Care, PC
American Home Lending USA, LLC
Immanuel United Methodist Church
PNC Bank**

5-9 YEARS

**Big Daddy's Edwardsville
Edwardsville Endodontics**

**Cardinal Catastrophe Services, Inc.
ONEWAY Construction**

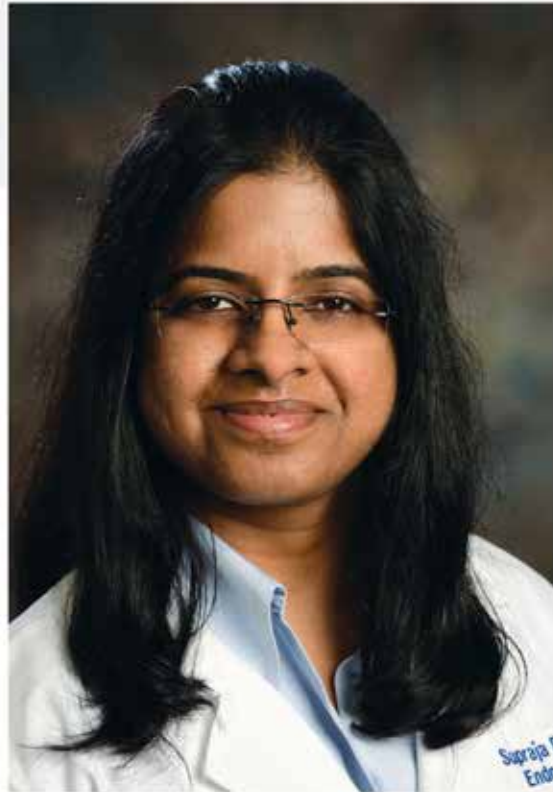
1-4 YEARS

**Bryan Cave LLP
First Community Credit Union
SSM Health at Home - Home Care & Hospice
First to the Finish
Edwardsville Robotics
Illinois Business Journal**

**Pedego Electric Bikes of Edwardsville
Restore Decor
Love's Travel Stops
Senior Services Plus, Inc.
Breakthru Beverage Illinois**

**Sgt. Pepper's Cafe
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the newly connected

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business after 5



BA5 @ Ruthy's House by Cedarhurst Senior Living, August 17



BA5 @ Ruthy's House by Cedarhurst Senior Living, August 17



BA5 @ Ruthy's House by Cedarhurst Senior Living, August 17



BA5 @ Ruthy's House by Cedarhurst Senior Living, August 17



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BA5 @ Ruthy's House by Cedarhurst Senior Living, August 17

ribbon cuttings & more



Ribbon Cutting @ Benchmark Title Company, August 2



Ribbon Cutting @ True Value Rental, August 4



Ribbon Cutting @ Unfried Chiropractic & Wellness Center, August 10



Ribbon Cutting @ Stix & Stones Interiors, August 24



Business Roundtable w/ Congressman John Shimkus, August 24

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Gori Julian & Associates Expands Practice With Addition Of Alton's John Hopkins & Associates

Gori Julian & Associates, P.C. recently announced it has added John Hopkins, as well as the staff and clients of John Hopkins & Associates, P.C. of Alton, to assist in Gori Julian's efforts to expand its growing personal injury practice.

Gori Julian & Associates is one of the nation's leading firms in asbestos litigation and also handles catastrophic injury cases and pharmaceutical and medical device litigation. Gori Julian & Associates has seven offices in the St. Louis metropolitan area and more than 170 employees. It also has offices throughout the country in major metropolitan areas as well.

"We have been on an aggressive steady growth pattern for the past five years, adding offices in different parts of the country, while also maintaining a foundation here in the Metro-East so we can expand our practice locally as well," said founding partner, Randy Gori of Gori Julian & Associates, P.C.

The law firm of John J. Hopkins & Associates has focused on representing people in the Metro-East who have been injured and need an advocate on their side for the past 40 years.

John J. Hopkins has a strong track record of success in dealing with medical malpractice, personal injury and workman's compensation cases. The firm is located in Alton at 500 6th Street and will remain at that location as Gori Julian & Associates, effective September 5, 2017.



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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.

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- Business litigation

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your business

Essenpreis Joins First Mid Insurance Group

Rodney Essenpreis has joined First Mid Insurance Group as Account Manager. He has extensive experience in all aspects of commercial and personal insurance and will assist and consult with customers on their risk management and insurance needs. Prior to joining First Mid Insurance Group, Essenpreis was an agent with AW Insurance and served as a claims investigator with Sedgwick Claims Management Services, Inc. He earned a Bachelor of Science from Southern Illinois University and currently serves as Chairman of Greater Gateway Association of REALTORS Affiliate Group.

Clay Dean, CEO of First Mid Insurance Group, commented, "We are excited to add a dedicated professional to our St. Louis Metro East market both for our existing customers and those of the former First Clover Leaf Bank. FMIG offers all lines of insurance and risk management consulting services from life, home and auto for individuals to commercial insurance and risk management consulting services for businesses. We also provide a full-array of health-related insurance for both individuals and employee groups, as well as benefits consulting."

Hagen Named Partner At West & Company, LLC

Alexander M. Hagen is a native of Mattoon and a graduate of Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. He resides in Mattoon with his spouse, Meghan and their children.



Hagen joined the firm in May 2008. His duties include the provision of accounting and tax services to closely-held corporations, partnerships and individuals. Hagen has extensive experience with a variety of industries including the agricultural industry, the trucking industry, the retail industry and the wholesale industry.

West & Company, LLC is a full service accounting firm with an emphasis in accounting and auditing, income tax preparation, bookkeeping and payroll services, employee benefit plan services, and estate and financial planning.

The firm was founded in 1968 and has grown to become a regional accounting firm with offices in Champaign, Edwardsville, Effingham, Greenville, Mattoon and Sullivan and has approximately seventy (70) employees. They have been designated a G-400 firm by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA).

West & Company Partner Josh Lowe, CPA, CFP, serves as treasurer for the Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce and manages the firm's Edwardsville location, which is located at 3 Sunset Hills Professional Center. To learn more about the firm, go to www.westcpa.com or call 618.656.4949.

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Illinois Chamber of Commerce: Time For Leaders To Keep Their Promises On Reform

This was published by the Illinois Chamber of Commerce in a September 2017 'Message from the President' email.

The Illinois Chamber of Commerce believes **Illinois has great economic potential**. In order for the state to maximize its opportunities, there are issues that still need to be addressed.

Please read the below text, also featured in the **Daily Herald**, for the Illinois Chamber's call for changes in policy and reform.



"There is more work to be done, and we will continue working with Republicans to ensure the issues still on the table are fully resolved," House Speaker Michael Madigan said in a statement picked up by NBC Chicago after the Illinois House passed an income tax increase in July.

"We still feel like we want to fulfill our promise in the grand bargain to get those reforms passed," Senate President John Cullerton said back in May.

It's time for Democratic leadership to show they are serious about working together to pass some crucial reforms that have been on the table for months.

We have seen glimpses of **bipartisan compromise**, which is needed to refresh some of Illinois' most fragmented systems. Setting public policy should not fall on the shoulders of any one party. Now, the Illinois Chamber of Commerce calls on state lawmakers to **pass the essential reforms aimed to promote economic growth and job creation**.

The business community finds it unacceptable that a 32 percent tax increase was implemented in early July without some much-needed reforms – **workers' compensation** and **property tax relief** – aimed to help bring jobs to Illinois and maintain the jobs already here.

Business advocates from various organizations have continuously fought for key changes to make the state run more effectively for our job creators. As the state has made progress, there is far more ground to cover. Sitting back simply is not an option.

Passing **pro-growth policies** for our businesses **from startups to globally renowned companies** would position Illinois as a more attractive state for jobs and investment. It would give Illinois more opportunity to win battles against Wisconsin, Iowa, and all states competing for economic growth.

Illinois has opportunity right in front of it with the Toyota-Mazda plant and Amazon headquarters looking for places to land, an emerging tech industry in Chicago, a booming agri-business statewide, and expanding infrastructure.

For job creators to choose Illinois, we must focus on passing pro-growth policies. The Illinois Chamber of Commerce calls on lawmakers to refocus efforts to:

1. REFORM OUR WORKERS' COMPENSATION SYSTEM: Small businesses create an abundance of jobs in Illinois and the nation. We remain a strong champion of pro-growth policies – **including true workers' compensation reform** – that would help all Illinois businesses, but especially start-ups and small businesses.

2. REJUVINATE OUR TAX SYSTEM: Real property tax relief for employers would help **ensure business owners invest here and not over the border**. Initiating **tax reform** needs to happen on both a state and national level. We are committed to working with elected officials in the Illinois General Assembly and Congress to ensure that businesses are not overburdened by taxes.

3. REFRESH OUR ECONOMIC POTENTIAL: Enacting more economic development incentives and **ensuring the state stops spending more money than it can afford** would help refresh the economy. Additionally, Illinois should look at more economic development incentives, such as tax incentives, which have made the difference between companies investing in other states over Illinois.

4. REVIVE OUR INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT: Reviving investment in our **roads, bridges, transit, and all Illinois' infrastructure** is pertinent to the state's economic success. We need greater investment for a more competitive Illinois. Illinois is a **major transportation hub nationwide** and we, along with the Transportation for Illinois Coalition, see it as a vital economic tool.

The Illinois Chamber values the **economic success** of our state. By encouraging lawmakers to support and pass pro-growth reforms, Illinois can make crucial economic progress and attract more job creators and overall potential. While a budget with a tax increase and little relief on employers is in place, the business community refuses to give up on key issues like workers' compensation, tax reform, and further economic development.

Illinois deserves **economic promise and growth**. And it doesn't have to be so far out of reach.

Todd Maisch, President & CEO
Illinois Chamber of Commerce



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