

PAY THE DAY ALL OF APRIL

APRIL 1
JOIN FEE
\$1

APRIL 2
JOIN FEE
\$2

APRIL 3
JOIN FEE
\$3



THE SOONER YOU JOIN,
THE MORE YOU SAVE!



TOP-OF-THE-LINE
FITNESS EQUIPMENT



DISCOUNTS ON CAMP,
YOUTH SPORTS, SWIM
LESSONS, & MORE



FREE CHILD WATCH
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23 LOCATIONS
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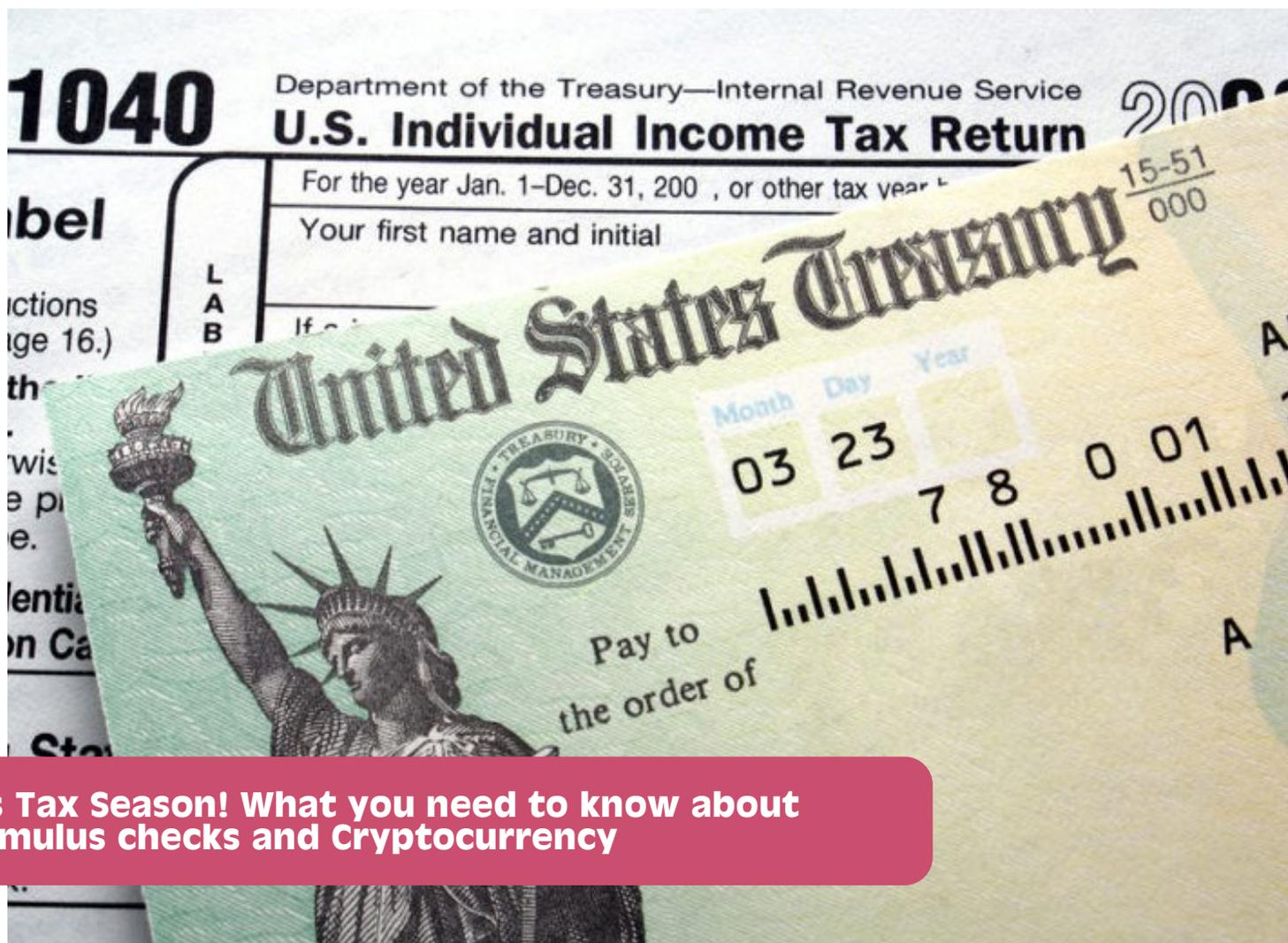
*Restrictions apply and access is subject to YMCA policies & guidelines. Please visit the branch for details. Classes & amenities vary per branch. Valid April 1 - 30, 2022. Not eligible with other discounts/promotions.



O'FALLON-SHILOH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

CHAMBER TRACKS

M O N T H L Y N E W S L E T T E R



It's Tax Season! What you need to know about Stimulus checks and Cryptocurrency

You may have to repay that Stimulus check if you did one of three things.

Also, not sure if you have to claim your crypto investments on your tax return?

[Page 12](#)

We can't wait to Re-Connect with our members. Join us at our upcoming member networking social event at O'Fallon Station, and find out how you can sponsor the event!

[Page 14](#)

Ways to show appreciation to our military families, upcoming cityfest planning and more!

[Pages 8 & 9](#)

NEW MEMBERS

Adornamental Shop
Jennifer Bickel / Kelly Mayou
O'Fallon, IL 62269
404-227-3686
adornamentalmoms@gmail.com
<https://etsy.me/37ikUVw>
(Home Décor/Ornaments)

Belleville Area Humane Society
Kim Vrooman
1301 South 11th Street
Belleville, IL 62226
618-235-3712
director@bahspets.org
www.bahspets.org
(non-profit)

*Revela at O'Fallon
Erin Fleshren
1022 E. Wesley Dr.
O'Fallon, IL 62269
618-616-5848
efleshren@revelaofallon.com
www.revelaofallon.com
(Senior Living)

**Star Investor*

Know someone who would benefit from a Chamber membership?



Invite them to an upcoming event!

O'Fallon-Shiloh Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 371
116 E. First Street
O'Fallon, IL 62269
www.OFallonChamber.com
Services: Maps: First one is free, each additional is \$1

Getting your name out
Newsletter Sponsor - \$100
Featured Business Ad - \$75
Full Page Ad - \$50 | 1/2 Page Ad - \$35
1/4 Page Ad - \$25
[Click for more details](#)

Follow us on Social Media!



MEMBER RENEWALS

Star Investors

- *Discount Storage
- *Town & Country Bank
- *Webster University

Benedictine Living Community at the Shrine
 Candlewood Suites O'Fallon
 Century 21 Bailey & Co
 Chick-fil-A Fairview Heights
 Community Financial Advisors, Inc.
 Debbie's
 Drake's Restaurant
 Elafros Financial Group, LLC
 Esse Health
 Home Instead Senior Care
 I Scream U Scream
 Ironhorse Resources, Inc.
 J I Enterprises
 Kruep Construction, Inc.
 Jennifer Mueller Memorial Foundation
 Legacy Planning, LLC

Mark Kern, St. Clair County Bd Chairman
 Metro East Signs, LLC
 Ray A. Rohr
 RE/MAX Signature Properties- Steve Bennett
 Rickhoff & Associates
 Roy-El BBQ Catering, Inc.
 St. Clair County Economic Dev. Dept
 St. Clare Catholic School
 Sam's Club
 Steinmeyer Roofing, Inc.
 Super 8 by Wyndham O'Fallon
 Sweet Katie Bee's Bakery Cafe
 Thouvenot Wade & Moerchen Inc.
 Trinity Services
 Yoga on Main

Thank you for renewing!
We love having you as a Chamber member!

YOUR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE STAFF

Debbie Arell-Martinez - [E-mail](#)
 President/CEO

Melissa Federhofer - [E-mail](#)
 Communications Manager

Doris Obernuefemann - [E-mail](#)
 Operations Manager

Jessica Lotz - [E-mail](#)
 Leadership & Development
 Coordinator

Johnnie Hodges - [E-mail](#)
 Membership Coordinator

Chamber Tracks is our monthly newsletter and comes out the first week of each month. The deadline for submitting your information for this publication is the 25th of the month preceding publication. We have gone "green" and post the newsletter electronically to the website. An e-mail goes out to all members advising them that the newsletter is available for viewing at OFallonChamber.com/news.html.

Print copies are available in the Chamber office upon request.

STAY HEALTHY

HEALTH AND WELLNESS COMMITTEE

If you are caring for a loved one, there are resources available to help make life a little easier and less stressful. Topics such as Navigating Hospital Discharge, Home Care Funding Solutions, and Tips to Help Families Work Together are available at homeinstead.com.



 **Home Instead.**

2321 Country Rd,
Belleville, IL 62221
(618) 234-7640
- *Cindy Hill*



Vine Street Market is excited to announce Farmers Market Coalition Power of Produce Club, aka, POP Club for the 2022 season!



POP CLUB

2022 VINE STREET MARKET PROPOSAL

VINE STREET Market
BY ORVILLE BISHOP



POP Club!

“My favorite thing was talking to farmers about how things grow.”



The premise behind this program is to offer kids a fun way to learn about healthy eating and spending as well as spark their creativity through a weekly activity. Every week a new POP Club activity will be hosted in the POP Club tent, which we are locating on the brick behind the Chamber. These activities have been created by the Farmers Market Coalition and are already in use with other markets.

After a child completes the activity they receive a POP Buck, which is a wooden token valued at \$2. They can then use the POP Buck to purchase produce with our market vendors. Children are not required to participate each week but for those who do we will keep a passport on file for them, after they complete their activity they will get a stamp in their passport.

At the end of the season we will give them their passports back and they can see all the fun activities they completed for the season.

Find out more about this program in the detailed presentaion.

The Market is looking ONE Exclusive sponsor to support this program - if you are intersted or know someone who may be interested, please reach out to Sarah Burton, City of O’Fallon: 618-206-4379



Sponsor POP Club!

SPONSORSHIP

As the exclusive sponsor of the POP Club your brand/logo will be included in all POP Club advertising as follows:

- Possibility of a weekly stall next to the POP Club tent during the market.
- Banner located in POP Club tent 24 Saturdays of the season.
- Brand/Logo displayed on activity bins and totes used for POP Club activities.
- Your logo printed on 75 POP Club tote bags used in the week one activity and for family use in subsequent weeks.
- Social media tagging in posts 1x a week on up to four social accounts.
- Brand/logo is included on all printed POP Club materials.
- Name Displayed on POP Club schedule posters during the market (24" x 36") and on all POP Club schedules printed or posted.
- POP Club tokens will include your logo on one side.

Alliance Comics, Toys, and Games, located at 110 W. State St., is your one-stop-shop for all things comic, gaming, and pop-culture related. Owner Tom Milster has been in the heart of Downtown O'Fallon for nearly three years but his love for toys and "geek" culture goes back much further.



In his late teens, Milster visited a bookstore where he found a copy of the graphic novel *The Dark Knight Returns*. The story inside moved Milster, who found it more interesting and psychological than other comics, and a new hobby was born that ultimately led him to Downtown O'Fallon.

Always interested in pop culture, Milster worked in radio and lived around the country before landing back in his hometown of Belleville, Illinois. One day while visiting the Belleville Flea Market, Milster found a bag of about 20 Star Wars

figurines he remembered well from his childhood and, much like his experience with *The Dark Knight Returns*, he was drawn in and soon turned his nostalgia into a career. Milster started buying and selling toys and related items at the Belleville Flea Market where he met his future O'Fallon landlord, Ginger Kammler.

Milster was gaining success with his business and was searching the area for a brick-and-mortar location when a recommendation was made to come to O'Fallon. A drive around Downtown and a "for rent" sign brought him back to Kammler. From there things moved very quickly and within 90 days Milster was open for business in his own shop. According to Milster, everything just fell into place and feels like it was meant to be.

There are multiple comic and game shops in the area, but Milster says this has never been an issue. Instead, he has been amazed at the level of cooperation among the comic book and game stores. Each shop has a specialty and is knowledgeable about the offerings found at other stores. Shops will refer customers to one another to make sure customers find what they are looking for.



As the name suggests, Alliance Comics, Toys, and Games specializes in comics, toys, and games. They are also the place to go to sell and trade. Prior to a physical store, Alliance Comics, Toys, and Games' customers were mostly adults aged 35 and up. The Downtown O'Fallon store now catches the eye of kids walking by after school, too! Window displays include Pokémon, Yu-Gi-Oh!, and Funko Pop items that are popular with kids and adults alike. For Milster, this is very reminiscent of his own childhood experience visiting "RJ's Variety" – his own local store. Milster is honored and moved by the knowledge that his own store will live on in these kids' memories forever, just like his own memories of RJ's Variety. Another rewarding aspect of business ownership has been the ability to mentor employees, giving two individuals their very first job.

Like most business owners, Milster had great concerns about the pandemic, but his resourcefulness led him to expand his sales on eBay, Whatnot, Amazon, and Facebook Live. Online sales that were necessary and successful during the worst of the pandemic are now a huge part of his business!



Milster stated the online sales have had an unexpected but wonderful side effect – a sense of community with a wide range of individuals across the country. Alliance Comics, Toys, and Games, while based in O'Fallon, has sold products coast to coast and Milster is thankful for the experience to connect with people all over the world. Milster is also thankful for the support and sense of community within the Downtown District and "can't say enough about how great a place this is to open a business."

So, whether you are in search of old video games, comic books, the toys of your past or toys of the present, Alliance Comics, Toys, and Games should be first on your list of places to look. Considering a little spring cleaning and want to see if your old comics are worth anything? Stop by Alliance Comics, Toys, and Games and strike up a conversation – you might just find a new community of friends in the process!



110 W. State Street
O'Fallon, IL 62269
(618) 589-9890

Learn more about the Downtown District and its many merchants, restaurants, and events:

www.ofalldowntowndistrict.com/

MEMBER NEWS

MCKENDREE UNIVERSITY HOSTS MODEL UN EVENT FOR 15 LOCAL HIGH SCHOOLS



McKendree University hosted its annual Model United Nations event on campus from March 8-10. Approximately 250 student delegates from 15 local high schools participated in this event, representing more than 50 countries.

Model UN provides students with an opportunity to learn how the UN operates and to practice their public speaking, debate, negotiation and team leadership skills. Participants take on roles as diplomats representing a country, investigating international issues, negotiating with allies and adversaries, and developing solutions to world problems. Many of today's leaders – including the UN itself – participated in Model UN as high school and college students.

Participating high schools and the countries they represented include the following:

Belleville East High School: the United Kingdom, Spain and Turkey
Belleville West High School: Russia, Iran, Syria and Cuba
Christian Brothers College High School: Tunisia
Freeburg Community High School: Kenya, United Arab Emirates and Qatar
Gibault Catholic High School: Norway, Germany and Argentina
Highland High School: Vietnam, Israel and Angola
Lebanon High School: Ireland
Mascoutah High School: Niger, Belgium, Guatemala and Indonesia
O'Fallon Township High School: the United States, Italy, Portugal, Australia, Afghanistan, Peru, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Zimbabwe, Libya, Kazakhstan, Somalia and Ethiopia
Okawville High School: France, Canada and North Korea
Pana High School: India and Brazil
Staunton High School: Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Triad High School: Estonia, Japan, Venezuela, Egypt, Yemen, Myanmar, Iraq, South Korea, South Africa and Nigeria
Valmeyer High School: China, Denmark

and the Philippines
Althoff Catholic High School: Mexico

Scott Anderson, a McKendree senior from East Alton, Ill., served as the Secretary General of the conference.

Triad High School won the Most Outstanding Delegation Award for its Estonia delegation. O'Fallon Township High School and Valmeyer High School also won Super Delegations awards for their delegations as the United States and China, respectively.

Local students also took home many awards. The complete list of awards can be found on our [here](#).

HOLLAND CONSTRUCTION SERVICES RAISES \$25,000 FOR TWO LOCAL NONPROFITS



Holland Construction Services is proud to announce their charitable foundation raised \$25,000 total at its annual winter golf charity event, the Klondike Klassic. The money will benefit two local nonprofit organizations, Leaps of Love and Fore Honor Foundation. Both charities took home a \$12,500 check to help support their causes.

"It is phenomenal to raise money for two very deserving organizations and I'm so proud of the hard work our team puts into this each year," said Holland Construction Services President Mike Marchal. "We really accomplished something together on this special and heartwarming day. We have family members in the military, so the Fore Honor Foundation's mission of honoring our servicemen and women hits close to home. Leaps of Love is also doing great things to help support local families and is an organization that our employees connected with."

Leaps of Love is based out of Highland, IL and strives to help families impacted by late effects of childhood cancer and childhood brain tumors. They offer support services through retreats, events, and outings to provide hope, strength and encouragement.

"We are so excited to be selected as a recipient of the Klondike Klassic," said Traci Riechmann, Founder and President of Leaps of Love. "It is a great donation and we are thrilled to use it towards the cost of our retreat in St. Charles for 8-10 of our St. Louis area families dealing with the late effects of childhood cancer and childhood brain tumors."

Fore Honor Foundation is a golf course and venue in the St. Louis area that provides a place of healing and caring for military veterans, active military, fire & rescue, police, emergency responders and gold star families. Their mission is to provide a membership for local heroes to thank them for their service. With this donation they hope to create wellness programs to help those suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury.

"This donation is very needed and sincerely appreciated," said Andrea Politte, President & Founder of the Fore Honor Foundation. "It will help a great deal in our mission and vision of honor, respect, healing and wellness for those who serve. This donation is a beautiful testament to the kind of amazing people that work at Holland Construction Services."

Since its inception in 1989, the Klondike Klassic has raised over \$250,000 for local charities. In 2015, Holland created the Holland Employee Charitable Foundation (HECF). The organization is employee run and driven with the mission of helping others in the community through donations and volunteering. The HECF has helped make the Klondike Klassic an annual event, with funds raised going towards a local organization voted on annually by the seven member Foundation Advisory Committee.

For more information on Leaps of Love visit www.leapsoflove.org.

For more information on Fore Honor Foundation, visit www.forehonor.com.

HSHS ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF HSHS ST. ELIZABETH'S HOSPITAL PRESIDENT AND CEO



HSHS Medical Group

HSHS today announced the appointment of Chris Klay to serve as President and

CEO of HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital in O'Fallon, IL. Klay currently serves as President and CEO of HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital in Breese, IL. He will begin his new role on May 1, 2022.

"I am honored for the opportunity to join the dedicated colleagues, medical staff members, and volunteers of St. Elizabeth's Hospital in their successful work and look forward to serving the metro east community," said Klay. "Founded on our Franciscan traditions and Hospital Sisters' core values of Care, Competence, Joy, and Respect, St. Elizabeth's is a leader in delivering high-quality health care in the region and I am excited to support and advance this legacy."

Since joining HSHS in 2009, Chris was been responsible for various aspects of hospital operations in our western Wisconsin hospitals, including inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation services, wound care, sleep lab, and respiratory therapy. At St. Joseph's Hospital, Chris has improved colleague engagement outcomes, increased net patient revenue, expanded telemedicine services, increased market share and implemented growth strategies including a new outpatient surgery center, a general surgery clinic and a primary care clinic. He also generated an increase of over \$11 million from fiscal year 2020 to fiscal year 2021 due to effective provider recruitment, operational volumes and expenses management.

"Chris has shown to be a proven leader in the HSHS, serving in both Illinois and Western Wisconsin Divisions, and we look forward to him bringing his leadership skills to St. Elizabeth's," HSHS Illinois Division Interim President and CEO Therese Pandl said. "His experience in patient-centered care and collaborative leadership practices

demonstrates a true commitment to our HSHS Mission."

Klay received his Master of Healthcare Administration from Ohio University and his Master of Arts in Physical Therapy from the College of St. Scholastica. He completed a fellowship with the Advisory Board Company in Healthcare Executive Leadership in 2015, and is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives.

Klay succeeds Patti Fischer, who served as President and CEO from May 2018 to November 2021, and Brandon Fish who currently serves as interim President and CEO.

KASKASKIA ENGINEERING GROUP, LLC HONORED AT ACEC ILLINOIS ANNUAL AWARDS



The team of Kaskaskia Engineering Group, LLC (KEG) is pleased to announce that they were honored as "Medium Firm of the Year" at the annual ACEC Illinois 2022 Engineering Excellence Awards. Founded in 2006, the engineering and construction firm has grown from a 3-person operation in a small, shared office space in Belleville, Illinois to its impressive portfolio today of 9 offices in 4 states, more than 50 employees, and countless successful infrastructure projects throughout the Midwest.

KEG President and Founder Geri E. Boyer, PE accepted the award alongside members of her team at the annual Engineering Excellence Awards, hosted by the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) of Illinois. The event featured awards for projects throughout the State, as well as Firm of the Year Awards in three size categories: small, medium, and large. This was the inaugural year for the award.

KEG was honored for its contributions to the success and growth of

ACEC IL, its role in advancing the consulting design profession, and their commitment to community involvement and activism. The Member Firm of the Year award is the only award program instituted to recognize ACEC IL member firms for their demonstrated leadership in promoting engineering through their activities with ACEC and in their communities.

"We are beyond honored to be recognized by ACEC Illinois. My team and I are so grateful to do what we love and have our work celebrated by our industry peers. We share this award with our teaming partners, our clients, and our fellow engineers," Boyer said. "And, of course, this award truly belongs to my team. I may be the one picking up the plaque, but I'm just a small piece of this group of amazing, dedicated professionals. I am so proud to be among them. Thank you to all my KEG-ers for everything you do."

KEG is a 100% woman-owned professional engineering firm that provides exceptional, innovative, and comprehensive solutions that improve our environment and lead to economic vitality. KEG's offices are located in Belleville, Glen Carbon, Peoria, Geneva and Champaign, Illinois, as well as Evansville, Indiana; St. Paul, Minnesota; and Ste. Genevieve, Missouri

**Find more Member
News on our website:**

OFallonChamber.com

The O'Fallon, IL City Fest Parade will be held on Saturday, August 20, 2022 at 5:00 pm.

Participants are encouraged to sign up early!

If you are interested in participating in the parade, please fill out the application form and return to Marcie Lapolice at ofallonilcityfest@gmail.com.

O'Fallon City Fest
O'Fallon, Illinois
Parade Registration & Contact Information
PARADE MOVES OUT 5:00 PM

The O'Fallon City Fest is a community, family-oriented celebration we are having again and hope to continue for years to come. We had a tremendous success bringing it back over the past two years and hope to improve on some things and make it even bigger this year. The O'Fallon City Fest is a celebration of community pride and we welcome all businesses, organizations, clubs, politicians, schools, and religious organizations to help make this a success. Also, the theme for this year's parade is "Movies".

Participant/Company Name: _____
Contact Person: _____
Cell Number: _____ Email Address: _____
Music: Yes ___ No ___ Approximate Number of Participants: _____
Type of Entry & Description: (car, float, dance, band, political, etc.) _____

Email for: ofallonilcityfest@gmail.com by July 31st, 2022

The last parade was larger than expected and they anticipate an even larger turn out this year. 65-70 participants will be allowed in this years parade and entrants will be accepted on a first come basis. The theme of the parade is "Movies" so please consider incorporating that theme into your entry.

The parade route will be the same route as last year down Lincoln Ave. and then into the O'Fallon City Park.



Please LIKE the [O'Fallon, IL City Fest](#) Facebook page to stay up to date on the parade and picnic!



Photo credits: Brian Keller
O'Fallon Illinois Historical Society

April The Month of the Military Child



April is the Month of the Military Child and the library would like to recognize the sacrifices that military

families make and the resiliency of the children who frequently move households.

This month all children, both military and civilian are invited to fill out one house-shaped cut-out for every place they have lived and add it to our wall map in the children's area. All military children will receive a special pencil and everyone will receive a patriotic lapel button.



Clinton MANOR



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Long Term Care & Short Term Rehabilitation**

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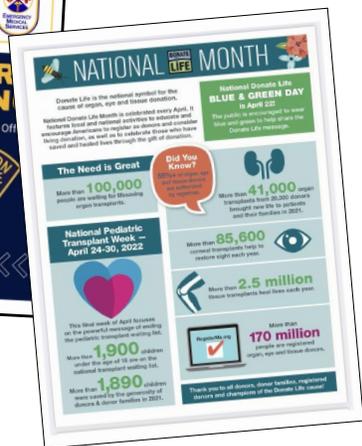


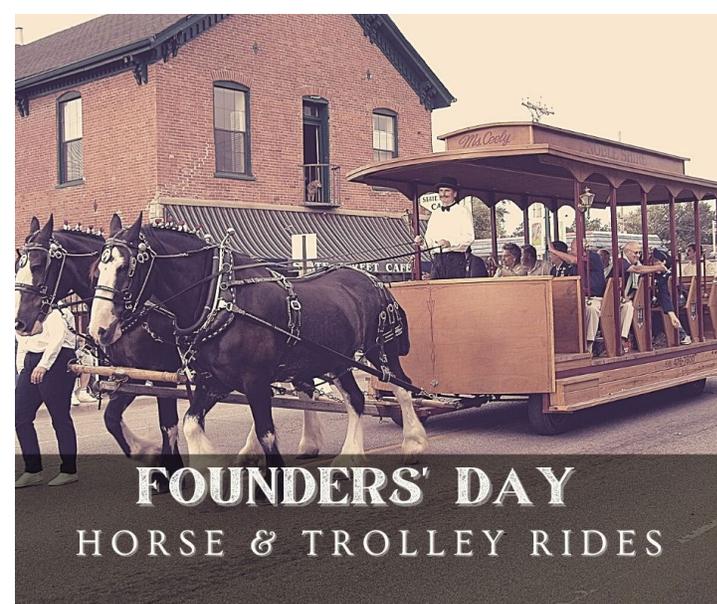
The O'Fallon Police Department puts out a monthly newsletter with great community information.

[Click to the image to open the full newsletter.](#)



April Public Safety Newsletter





FOUNDERS' DAY
HORSE & TROLLEY RIDES

Take a historic, guided horse and trolley ride during the Founders' Day event May 14th! Leave from the O'Fallon Station and travel to O'Fallon Parks & Recreation Community Park. Learn the history of the area along the route given by our talented guide from the OTHS Thespian Troupe!

- Purchase tickets here bit.ly/36TPDK8
- \$10 per person, children 3 and under are free and must sit on an adults lap.
- Rides leave every 25 minutes between 9am and 11:30am.

BUNNY
hop
SHOP

April 9, 2022
9am-2pm

A DAY OF SPRING SHOPPING, AND A
LITTLE BIT OF FUN FOR KIDS TOO!

Upload your receipts from any downtown business that day here for a chance to win the BIG Downtown District Easter Basket.

Once chance for every \$10.00 in purchases!

Military Spouse Appreciation Day

IT'S A TIME TO HONOR THE CONTRIBUTIONS AND SACRIFICES MADE BY MILITARY SPOUSES.



The Chamber would like to help the Scott Spouses Club put together "Thank You bags" to recognize the role military spouses play in supporting the military.

We are asking our members for donations - chapstick, hand sanitizer, coupons, promo items etc.

Donations are needed by:

APRIL 15

If dropping them off at the Chamber, please coordinate that with us so we know you're coming.

This day aims to bring national attention to the role military spouses play in maintaining the morale of the military and in supporting their significant others while they serve the military.

This year we'd like to help the Scott AFB Spouse Club put together "thank you bags" for their recognition event. They are planning on 400-450 bags. We aren't necessarily asking for that many of an item, but if you have some items you'd like to contribute, any amount will do. Last year we donated items like coupons, hand sanitizer, chap stick, etc.

Please let us know if you'd like to donate. We'd like to have these donations in hand by April 15th.

If dropping them off at the Chamber, please coordinate that with us so we know you're coming. Call or email the Chamber: 618-632-3377 or Chamber@OFallonChamber.com

March Ribbon Cuttings



Ribbon Cutting | Allstate - Rebecca Korando
1321 W. Hwy 50
O'Fallon, IL 62269

*Congratulations on your
One Year Anniversary!*



Ribbon Cutting | Misson Accomplished
1801 W Hwy 50
O'Fallon, IL 62269

*Welcome and congrats on your new
O'Fallon location!*



Ribbon Cutting | Farmers & Merchants National Bank
1805 E Hwy 50
O'Fallon, IL 62269

*Welcome and congrats on your new
O'Fallon location!*

View all our ribbon cutting photos and videos on our website: OFallonChamber.com

ONE LAST CHANCE TO ADVERTISE IN THE NEW COMMUNITY GUIDE AND MAP!

While the visual ad sales is now closed, you can still get your name in the new Community Guide with an Enhanced Listing! Don't wait!



2022 COMMUNITY GUIDE

ENHANCED BUSINESS LISTINGS

Dear Chamber Member,

We want to say 'Thank You' to those who have signed up to sponsor the upcoming 2022 O'Fallon • Shiloh Chamber Community Guide . You are investing in the most trusted publication in our community.

For those who were unable to participate in the display advertising, you still have an opportunity to increase your company's visibility and highlight your business by purchasing an Enhanced Business Listing for a nominal charge. This addition was made possible because we want all of our members to have every opportunity to promote your company through our most popular publication that is distributed to thousands of people.

Our publishing partner, Town Square Publications has partnered with Chamber Directory Services to contact our members and verify their listing information and also allow the opportunity to purchase an Enhanced Business Listing. The enhancements can be purchased by members at a very affordable price.

SUPER BOX LISTING \$399

Logo Box Bold Red Listing with Description
Increases your exposure 80%

BOX LISTING \$299

Box Bold Red Listing with Description
Increases your exposure 50%

RED BOLD LISTING \$149

Your Listing - Bold Red
Increases your exposure 33%



Call: 800-807-6805 for more information

The printed publication will be distributed through Chamber member advertisers, and thousands of people who request information in our office or order the publication through the internet or phone. No other publication offers the distribution that we can promise. Most importantly, it will appear on the Chamber's website that receives thousands of hits annually from people who are seeking business, relocation and economic information about our community.

Time is limited! If you are interested in purchasing an Enhanced Business Listing please contact Chamber Directory Services, at 800-807-6805.

Thank you for your continued support of the O'Fallon • Shiloh Chamber!

Debbie

Debbie Arell-Martinez
President/CEO

BUSINESS TRACK ARTICLE

The IRS Warns You'll Have to Return Stimulus Money If You Did This

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/money/taxes/the-irs-warns-you-ll-have-to-return-stimulus-money-if-you-did-this/ss-AAVnGPs?ocid=winp1taskbar>



Over the last two years, millions of people in the U.S. were given financial aid from the government in the form of three separate stimulus checks. If you received the full amount for each payment, it came to \$3,200 in COVID relief. The last checks started arriving in households back in March 2021, so many of us have already used up all these funds. But it turns out, not everyone was supposed to keep the money they've received from the IRS. According to the tax agency, there are a few stipulations that might require you to return your third stimulus check. Read on to find out if you owe this money to the IRS.

You'll have to return your third stimulus check if you were sent it despite not being eligible.

There were many qualifications you needed to meet to legally receive the third stimulus payment—and your citizenship was part of it. While you weren't necessarily required to be a U.S. citizen to get the check, you did have to be considered a tax-based qualifying resident alien in 2021 and not claimed as a dependent of another taxpayer for eligibility.

According to the IRS, people in the U.S. who were considered to be nonresident aliens—individuals who are not a U.S. citizen or U.S. national—in 2021 are not eligible for this third check. So if you received it incorrectly, you'll need to pay it back. "An alien who received a payment but isn't a qualifying resident alien for 2021 should return the payment to the IRS," the agency said.

You might also need to repay money if you accepted a check not meant for you.

You should know not to cash a check that isn't directed to you. But the IRS could have potentially mailed the third stimulus payments to people who died before Jan. 1, 2021, despite noting that these recipients are not eligible. And you might assume that since they can't use it, you can—but that's not the case. "A payment made to someone who died before they received the payment should be returned to the IRS," the tax agency says.

One instance, however, might make you able to keep some of the money. The IRS says that if the payment was made to joint filers and one spouse is still living, that person may ask to be sent a new check for their eligible portion. "If you can't cash or deposit a joint payment because it was issued to you and a spouse who died in 2021, return the check," the IRS advises, adding that you should "include a letter requesting us to reissue the third payment in your name only as the surviving spouse."

But you won't have to give money back just because you received too much.

The third stimulus check was issued to most people last year as an advancement of a 2021 tax credit. According to NerdWallet, this

means that because the IRS did not have access to your 2021 tax information yet when sending this payment, they likely relied on your 2020 or 2019 tax return to determine if you were eligible. As a result, taxpayers might realize that they don't actually qualify for all the money they received for the third economic impact payment when filing their 2021 return.

But fortunately, the IRS has a no harm, no foul outlook on recipients in this case. According to the tax agency, you don't have to pay back money from your third stimulus check, even if you received too much. "If you qualified for a third payment based on your 2019 or 2020 tax return, the law doesn't require you to pay back all or part of the payment you received based on the information reported on your 2021 tax return," the IRS explains.

You can return the money in a number of ways.

You can go about getting this money back to the IRS in multiple ways. If you received a paper check and have not cashed it yet, the agency says you should void it and mail it back to your appropriate IRS location based on the state in which you live.

On the other hand, if you received a direct deposit payment or you've already cashed the check, you should submit a personal check or money order for the amount you need to pay back to the appropriate IRS location. The check or money order should be made payable to the U.S. Treasury, with your taxpayer identification number and "Third EIP" written for the recipient of the check.

And no matter how you choose to repay your third stimulus check, the IRS will want to know why you are returning the money. The agency asks that you "include a brief explanation stating the reason" as to why you are repaying the money you received.

If you traded crypto last year, you need to report it on your tax return: 'One of the misconceptions of crypto is that it's anonymous'

by: Nicolas Vega
<https://www.cnn.com/2022/03/31/if-you-bought-and-sold-cryptocurrencies-in-2021-you-might-owe-taxes.html>

The April 18 tax deadline is just weeks away, and for many Americans it will be the first time they answer questions about cryptocurrencies on their tax returns.



Crypto traders and NFT buyers and sellers will need to report their gains to the Internal Revenue Service so that they

can be properly taxed. But it can be confusing to know if you owe taxes on your bitcoin, dogecoin, ether and other currencies, especially with the tricky cryptocurrency question that's included on every tax return.

For the second straight year, the first item taxpayers will encounter on their 1040 forms after filling out their contact information is a question asking if "at any time during 2021, did [they] receive, sell, exchange, or otherwise dispose of any financial interest in

any virtual currency."

It's a question that is easy to answer if you understand what the IRS is trying to find out, says Austin Woodard, a certified public accountant and CEO of crypto accounting platform TaxBit.

"If you just bought it and didn't sell anything, you can actually answer 'no' to that question because you do not have any taxable gains or losses to report," he says.

But if you bought and sold cryptocurrency, or otherwise spent your crypto or exchanged it for other digital tokens, you must respond "yes" to the question.

That's because under U.S. tax law, bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies are classified as property and subject to capital gains taxes, meaning that you owe taxes on the increase in value of your property from when you first bought it. But you only owe taxes when those gains are realized.

"Any time you sell a cryptocurrency or trade it for another form of property, or if you're using it for a means of payment, you are incurring a taxable event," Woodward says.

The amount you will owe depends on how long you held your cryptocurrency, and whether you sold or exchanged it for a profit or a loss. If you owned your crypto for under a year, the taxes you pay on any gains will be the same as your normal income tax rate.

If you owned your crypto for more than a year, you will pay a long-term capital gains tax rate, which is determined by your income. For single filers, the capital gains tax rate is 0% if you earn up to \$40,400 per year, 15% if you earn up to \$445,850 and 20% if you make more than that. This IRS worksheet can help you do the math.

Investors who sold or exchanged their crypto at a loss — for example, buying bitcoin at \$60,000 and selling it at \$30,000 — can use their losses to lower their taxable income by a maximum of \$3,000. Any additional losses can be carried over to future years.

Woodward encourages anyone who has incurred losses to be proactive about reporting them to the IRS, no matter how small. Failing to do so, he warns, could result in an IRS audit.

"They have a lot of infrastructure and teams in place to go after known cryptocurrency users that don't report," he says. "There might be some costs associated with navigating an audit that you would otherwise not want to go through if you had just reported your losses."

Whatever you do, make sure you don't fail to report any crypto transactions to the IRS, Woodward says. Tax returns are signed under the penalty of perjury, and it is possible that you can be caught lying to the IRS.

"I think one of the misconceptions of crypto is that it's anonymous and there's not a record of who's using it and what's happening," he says. "You should report under the assumption that the IRS knows about it anyway."

We have decided to postpone our Annual Salute to Business Awards Luncheon for one more year. This year, we invite you to Re-Connect with us at a fun and casual member networking event instead. Close your office early and bring the entire staff!

This is also an inexpensive and fantastic sponsorship opportunity for our members. But don't wait to secure yours - spots are limited and filling up fast!

We cannot wait to see you and Re-Connect with you!

Re-Connect

Cocktails • Food Trucks • Music

Friday, May 20, 2022 | 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
O'Fallon Station | 212 E. First Street, O'Fallon

LET'S RE-CONNECT!

Enjoy some food, cocktails, music and each other! Close the office and join us. When you are done, visit a business in the Downtown District!

Event is pending City of O'Fallon Approval

\$20 per person
Must register in advance



SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

Event Sponsor | \$750

Special recognition at the event
Option to display/give out promo items
Option to greet guests at door
Name/Logo displayed at event
4 complimentary tickets to event
Pre and post-event advertising on the Chamber's website, social media and event flyers
Unlimited sponsorships available

Music Sponsor | \$300

Name/Logo displayed at event
Only 1 sponsorship available

Centerpiece Sponsor | \$250

Name/Logo displayed on most tables with centerpiece
2 sponsorships available

Signature Drink | \$250

Plan and name the signature drink
Option to provide cups with your name/logo on them (only the signature drink is available in your cup)
Name/Logo displayed at Signature drink table
2 sponsorships available

Dessert Sponsor | \$200

Name/Logo displayed at event
3 sponsorships available

A MEMBER NETWORKING
SOCIAL EVENT HOSTED BY:



Includes a small plate from each of the following food trucks:

Sugarfire Smokehouse
Flamentco's The Place
Soulcial Kitchen

Pay as you Go Bar:
Global Brew (brews & big batch drinks)

For more information or to sponsor this event, call or email the Chamber:
Chamber@OFallonChamber.com
618-632-3377

Reserve your sponsorship now!

Strong Women. Stronger Illinois

Fifth Annual Women in Business Conference

Date: June 22, 2022

Location: NIU Center Ballroom, Naperville, IL

Time: 8:30 am - 2:30 pm

Illinois women are Second to No One. We have amazing talent, determination, intelligence, and resolve. This year's theme will be Challenge Accepted.

The Illinois Chamber welcomes you to our women's conference as we come together to discuss and further dreams of our already strong women for a stronger Illinois. This year's theme is "Challenge Accepted." The robust agenda will provide time for networking and connecting with professionals, and topics providing takeaways for all to take back to the office or home.

Featuring speakers: Elain Hand, President of InnerView LLC; Tremese C. Davis, Vice President, Operations, Nicor Gas; and Trisha Prabhu, Entrepreneur | Inventor | Change Agent

[Register Online](#)

ILLINOIS CHAMBER

75 CHALLENGE - SHILOH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

2022

Women In Business Conference

June 22, 2022
8:30 am to 2:30 pm
NIU Center | Naperville, Illinois

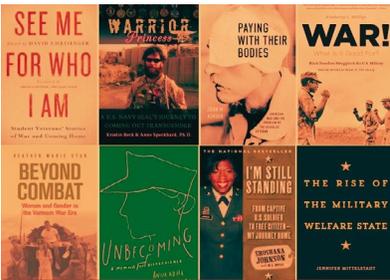
CHALLENGE ACCEPTED!

MEMBER | \$175
NONMEMBER | \$225

Save \$50 if you register by June 12, 2022

Register at ilchamber.org/womensconference

Call Kirsten Constant at (217) 522-5512 ext 227 or kconstant@ilchamber.org



This Spring 2022 semester, Military and Veteran Services will be hosting its MAVRC Book Club [Military and Veteran Resource Center Book Club]. For the April meeting, we'll be discussing *Unbecoming: A Memoir of Disobedience* by Anuradha Bhagwati (Atria Books, 2019). And interact with us on Goodreads!

Date: Thursday, April 28, 2022

Time: 12:00PM

Location: Virtual - Zoom

[Register Here](#)

Military and Veteran Services will be offering three free copies of the book!!! To request a free copy, please contact Telisha Reinhardt at treinha@siue.edu. Those awarded will receive only one free book a semester.

Participants will be responsible for their own copy of the selected book. You may purchase a copy at any retailer of your choice, such as: Amazon | Barnes & Noble | Books-A-Million | Half Price Books, or borrow a copy from a local library.

About the MAVRC Book Club

To truly recognize the military and veteran community is to be informed of the various and complex histories, experiences, and narratives of military culture and veteran knowledge. The MAVRC Book Club, organized by the Office of Military and Veteran Services at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE), will present a series of readings and discussions to better comprehend and interpret the policies and procedures that developed the United States Armed Forces, and make sense of the terrain and bureaucracy that military personnel and veterans navigate daily. Hosting such a book club will cultivate conversations with the purpose of dismantling stereotypes and the romanticism on the meaning of service.

Readings selected for the book club will be a diverse selection that will highlight the contributions of women veterans, veterans of color, and LGBTQIA+ veterans – groups that have a history of hostile treatment in the military and whose service has been marginalized. Other readings will dissect the policies and procedures that have shaped the military and veteran life. Another theme of readings will provide a worldly perspective of conflicts that the United States military has engaged in since its formal establishment.

Trigger warning: Books selected may deal with themes and topics of war and combat; sexual assault, abuse, harassment, and violence; disabilities, physical and mental health, and trauma; gender and sexual identity; race, culture, and ethnicity; and politics and religion.

Politics of the authors of selected readings are not reflective of Military and Veteran Services. Differing opinions and worldviews should be communicated intellectually with respect and understanding. Book club meetings will be held virtually via Zoom and will be open to the public.

MILITARY AND VETERAN SERVICES

MAVRC BOOK CLUB

UNBECOMING:
A MEMOIR OF DISOBEDIENCE
BY ANURADHA BHAGWATI

THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2022 | 12:00PM
VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

City of O'Fallon New Ward Map Effective May 1, 2022

Due to redistricting, the City of O'Fallon's new Ward Map will go into effect on May 1, 2022. Redistricting is the once-every-decade process of redrawing wards within the City of O'Fallon to reflect population changes after the completion of the decennial federal Census. According to the new U.S. Census Bureau figures released, O'Fallon's new population is 32,289, a 14.1% increase. The new Ward Map can be located [here](#).



“O'Fallon's continued growth has forced the boundary lines for the Wards to be adjusted. I appreciate our staff using the census information to help us during this redistricting,” said Mayor Herb Roach. “Just like all our decisions at the City Council, these new

boundaries were drawn using data and common sense, and not politics; just the way that it should be done.”

Some O'Fallon residents may be in a different Ward from where they were before. We encourage everyone to review the map to determine which Ward you are now in. A list of elected officials can be viewed at <https://www.ofallon.org/administration/elected-officials>.

Voting Cards will be sent by St. Clair County prior to the next local election.

For Ward redistricting, guidance is from the Illinois Constitution regarding State redistricting and best practices regarding redistricting in general.

Primary considerations/requirements from the Illinois Constitution:

- Compact: Wards should be closely and neatly bounded; avoid sprawl and 'dangle' areas.
- Contiguous: Ward boundaries must be self-contained; no disconnected Ward 'bubbles'.
- Equal population: We take the total City population from the 2020 Census and divide by the number of wards; allowing a +/-5% variance for population within each new ward boundary.

Redistricting Best Practice Guidance:

- Racial Fairness: preserve racial composition of communities in new Ward boundaries.
- Avoid Splitting Blocks: 2020 Census Block boundaries are the most granular level of population data released by Census.
- Follow major roads and understood boundaries.
- Preserve existing legislators in Ward.
- Preserve existing Ward boundaries as much as practicable.

The new Ward boundary Map satisfied all the above guidance. No current members of the O'Fallon City Council will move Wards with the new map. There are two major changes in comparison to the previous Ward Map:

The old Ward Seven became too large due to continued residential growth. This problem would have continued to grow if left to current ward boundaries. Therefore, Ward Seven and Ward One are adjusted to comply with the population requirement and prepare for further growth.

The southern boundary of Ward One no longer includes the residential area near the O'Fallon Family Sports Park. This residential area now resides in Ward Three.



Your Best MedicineSM is Right Here.

Memorial Hospital Shiloh is committed to meeting the needs of our community with everything you need available on the Shiloh campus:

- Inpatient, outpatient, emergency care, and diagnostic services
- Family Care Birthing Center
- Children's at Memorial
- Primary care and specialty services from BJC Medical Group
- Specialty care from Washington University Physicians in Illinois, Inc.
- Siteman Cancer Center—the only satellite facility in Illinois

And as part of BJC HealthCare, we are connected to Barnes-Jewish Hospital. It's the world's best medicine right where you live.

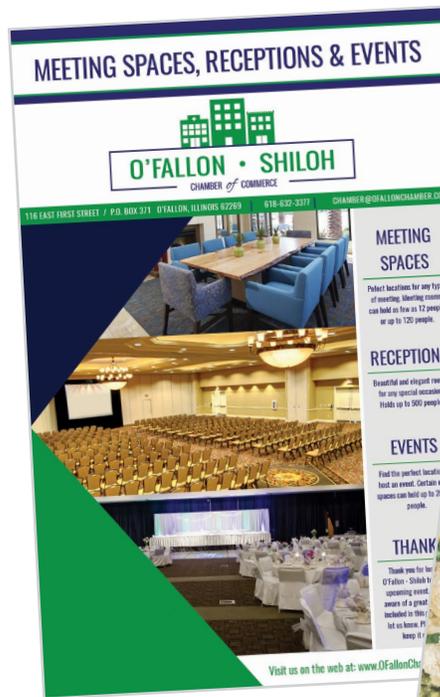


memhosp.org

Our Restaurant Guide and Meeting Guide have both been updated!

Check out the hottest new restaurants and event places in town!

Do you have an event space we don't know about? Email us and we will include it in our guide!



Our March Business After Hours was hosted by HSHS Medical Group - Orthopedic & Sports Medicine, along with a ribbon cutting to celebrate their new location. The facility is beautiful and catering was provided by The Weingarten - we love seeing Chamber members collaborate with each other!

View all the photos and the highlight video on our [website!](#)



MONTHLY CALENDAR

April

- 6 [Healthcare & Wellness Committee Meeting](#)
8:00 a.m. | Virtual via Zoom
- 7 [Restaurant Roulette](#)
11:30 a.m. | Various restaurants
- 12 [Business After Hours](#)
5:00 p.m. | Cope Marine
1725 W. Hwy 50, O'Fallon
- 13 [Downtown District Committee Meeting](#)
8:45 a.m. | City Hall Council Chambers
- 13 [Ambassador Meeting](#)
11:30 a.m. | Southern Illinois Builders Association
- 14 [Ribbon Cutting](#)
12:00 p.m. | The Rehabilitation Institute of Southern IL
2351 Frank Scott Parkway, Shiloh
- 14 [Military Affairs Committee Meeting](#)
3:30 p.m. | O'Fallon VFW Post 805
- 19 [Education Committee Meeting \(Tentative\)](#)
1:00 p.m. | O'Fallon District 90 Offices
- 20 [Ribbon Cutting](#)
5:00 p.m. | Advanced Vision Care
821 W. Hwy 50, Ste 302, O'Fallon
- 25 [Executive Board Meeting](#)
1:15 p.m. | Chamber Depot
- 25 [Member Engagement Committee](#)
2:30 p.m. | Chamber Depot
- 28 [Board of Directors Meeting](#)
8:15 a.m. | O'Fallon City Hall
- 28 [Ribbon Cutting](#)
11:30 a.m. | Pure 111
391 Frank Scott Parkway East, Fairview Heights
- 29 [Business Over Breakfast](#)
8:00 a.m. | Public Safety Building



BUSINESS OVER BREAKFAST

O'FALLON-SHILOH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

THIS MONTH'S SPEAKERS:

DAVE SNYDER & JIM CAMPBELL | HABITAT FOR HUMANITY
MELISSA FANNING & RYAN JOHNSON | O'FALLON PUBLIC LIBRARY

O'Fallon Public Safety Building
285 N Seven Hills Rd
O'Fallon, IL 62269

April 29, 2022 | 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

Would you like the opportunity to present your business?
Call or email the chamber office for your chance to speak at an upcoming BOB!

BUSINESS AND RIBBON CUTTING AFTER HOURS

HSHS Medical Group
Orthopedic & Sports Medicine

FOOD CATERED BY:
The Weingarten

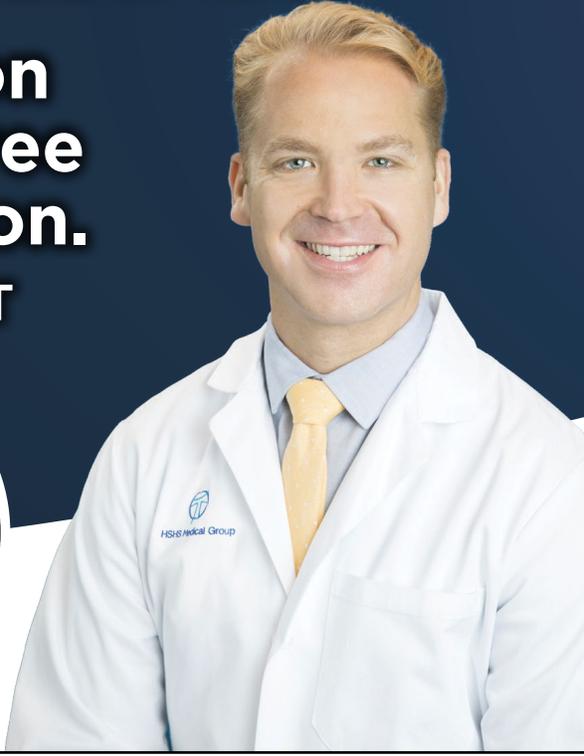


MARCH 15, 2021 | 5:00 P.M. TO 7:00 P.M.

Joint PAIN?

Join Orthopedic Surgeon Travis Junge, MD, for a free one hour virtual discussion.

Thurs., April 21, 2022 - 7 pm CST



SALUTE TO OUR STAR INVESTORS



TWO STAR INVESTORS



ONE STAR INVESTORS

1st National Bank of Waterloo
A Calming Place
Associated Bank
Auffenberg Dealer Group
Bank of Belleville
Bank of O'Fallon
Belleville News Democrat
BOS Metro East Banking Center
Booz Allen Hamilton
Busey Bank
C&C Sports
CEFCU
Cambridge House O'Fallon
Cambridge Capital Management, LLC
Carrollton Bank
Catholic Community Credit Union
Central Bank of St. Louis
Clete's, Inc.
Clinton Manor Living Center
Coldwell Banker Brown Realtors
Commerce Bank
Country Estate Kennel
Dierbergs Markets Inc.
Discount Storage
Drury Inn & Suites
Essence Health Care
Farmers & Merchants National Bank
FCB O'Fallon Bank

First Bank
First Bankers Trust Company
First Community Credit Union
First Mid Bank & Trust
Gateway Metro Federal Credit Union
GCS Credit Union
GEICO Local Office
Guaranteed Rate Lending
Hilton Garden Inn
Holland Construction Services
Illinois American Water
Jack Schmitt Chevrolet of O'Fallon
KB Homes Powered by KW Pinnacle
Kerber, Eck & Braeckel, LLP
Keystone Place at Richland Creek
Klein's Brand Source
La Casa Mexicana of O'Fallon
Lashley Animal Hospital
Lincoln Surgical Associates, Ltd.
Lucky Dog Barks and Recreation
McKendree Metro Rec Plex
McKendree University
Merrill Lynch | Woody Gray
Mid America Oral Surgery Center
Navy Federal Credit Union
O'Fallon Progress/Command Post
O'Fallon Shiloh Towing
OST Container

R&W Builders, Inc.
Rankings.io, LLC
Regency Manor
Regions Bank
Sandberg Phoenix
Serenity & Hope Counseling
Serra Honda of O'Fallon
Schaefer Auto Body Centers
Scott Credit Union
Scott Family Housing
Sigman Heating and Air Conditioning
Spectra Graphics
Taylor Roofing
The Lash Lounge Shiloh
The Record Madison/St.Clair
The Rehabilitation Institute of
Southern Illinois
The Regency Conference Center
Together Credit Union
Town & Country Bank
TownePlace Suites by Marriott
U.S. Bank
Veterans United Home Loans at SAFB
Washington University Physicians
-Pediatric Specialty Care
Webster University at SAFB
Wisper Internet

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Cindy Helmkamp, Board Chairperson
Together Credit Union

Kevin Meder, Treasurer
CliftonLarsonAllen

Jeff Dossett, Vice Chairperson
Memorial Hospital Belleville | Shiloh

BOARD MEMBERS

Dr. Vinay Bhooma
HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital

Sam Loring
Loring Financial Management
of Raymond James

Ex-Officio

Mayor Robert Weilmuenster
Village of Shiloh

Lorraine Cavataio
Sandberg Phoenix & von Gontard P.C.

Kurt Schroeder
Greensfelder, Hemker & Gale, P.C.

Mayor Herb Roach
City of O'Fallon

Jon Greenstreet
Bike Surgeon

Susan Schultz
Webster University

Melissa Fanning | Lead In
United Way of Greater St. Louis

Dan Jackson
Carrollton Bank

Tony Smallman
BARBER Murphy Group, Inc.

Mayoral Representative

Brenda Kern
Village of Shiloh

Nathan Klitzing
Cambridge Capital Management

Kevin Welch
1st National Bank of Waterloo

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American Red Cross

Reneé La Bruyere
Horner & Shiffrin

Mieke Taylor
Reach the Meek Marketing. LLC

Debbie Brauer

Nathan Parchman
Farmers & Merchants National Bank

Raven Trebilcock
Legacy Planning, LLC

Jaclyn Gross
Hilton Garden Inn

Lindsay Porzeinski
Home Heating & Cooling

Lisa Vorce
Thrivent Finanicla - Lisa Vorce

Lisa Harley
O'Fallon, IL YMCA

Dr. Shelly Severns, DC
Severns Family Chiropractic

Justin Ward
1st National Bank of Waterloo

Cindy Hill
Home Instead

Dave Snyder
Rotary Club of O'Fallon

Sheri Welch

Erik Huber
Bank of Springfield

Ginni Stajduhar
Nothing Bundt Cakes - Fairview Hts

Heather Wieczorek
First Community Credit Unon

O'Fallon-Shiloh Chamber of Commerce
 P.O. Box 371
 116 E. First Street
 O'Fallon, IL 62269
 www.OFallonChamber.com

Services: Maps: First one is free, each additional is \$1

Our April Newsletter Sponsor is: O'Fallon YMCA

April - June 2022

SAVE THE DATES

ALL EVENTS WILL FOLLOW CURRENT CDC GUIDELINES

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS
 ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ATTENDANCE PRIZE DRAWINGS ARE AT 6 P.M.

cope MARINE
 "We Sell Fun"
 1725 West Hwy 50, O'Fallon
 Tuesday, April 12 • 5-7 p.m.

BOS Metro East
 Banking Center
 1770 Frank Scott Parkway East, Shiloh
 Tuesday, May 17 • 5-7 p.m.

PURE111
 medical aesthetics
 391 Frank Scott Parkway East, Fairview Heights
 Tuesday, June 21 • 5-7 p.m.

Please RSVP to 632-3377 or chamber@ofallonchamber.com

RESTAURANT ROULETTE

Thursday, April 7 11:30 a.m.
NO RESTAURANT ROULETTE IN MAY
 Thursday, June 16 11:30 a.m.

Have an exceptional networking session with 3 to 7 other chamber members!

Location at various member restaurants
 You RSVP; we tell you the day before where you're going for lunch; you find out who you're having lunch with when you arrive at your table!



BUSINESS OVER BREAKFAST

Friday, April 29 8:00 a.m. **NOTE TIME CHANGE**
NO BUSINESS OVER BREAKFAST IN MAY
 Friday, June 24 8:00 a.m.

all BOB events located at
 Public Safety Building • 285 N. Seven Hills Road, O'Fallon

Chambers All In



2022 Platform

for economic recovery

ALL IN FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY

We're all in. We are joining the Chambers All in for Economic Recovery Initiative. Our coalition is now over 50 Illinois Chambers of Commerce calling for the legislature to make economic recovery for businesses a priority in 2022.

[Learn More About All In on our website](#)