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#### STUDENT PLANNER!



A recent survey showed that students utilizing a paper planner stayed more organized and earned higher grades.

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To purchase your ad, call or email Debbie, President/CEO - O'Fallon-Shiloh Chamber of Commerce | 618-632-3377 | director@OFallonChamber.com

See ad layout page for ad sizes and pricing.



#### 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



As a business, do you have a social media policy for employees and do you need one? As an employee, do you post on social media? Here's what you need to know to make sure you are not reflecting on your career or business in a bad light!

<u>Page 10</u>

Employment News and Info: What you need to know about a recently passed bill regarding paid leave for employees for any reason.

Did you know the Chamber has a job board for members to submit their job postings?

means the Chamber, The O'Fallon Weekly and O'Fallon Progress will be co-hosting a series of Candidate Forums. If you are running for office, you'll want to sign up!

It's an election year which

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## **NEW MEMBERS**

#### Partners in Grime Kleaning, LLC

Sarah Buckley O'Fallon, IL 62269 618472-2166 sarahb@pngkleaning.com http://www.pngkleaning.com (Cleaning)

#### Colonial Supplies LLC dba Supplies Plus

Troy Shaver 1727 W. Highway 50 Suite 200 O'Fallon, IL 62269 618-310-0025 troy@colonialsupplies.net www.colonialsupplies.net (retail)

#### Leadership Council Southwestern IL

Andrea Beyer
104 Magnolia Dr, Ste B
Glen Carbon, IL 62034
618-692-9745
office@leadershipcouncilswil.com
https://leadershipcouncilswil.com
(organization)

#### Metro East Diaper Bank

Norma McCandless Shiloh, IL 62221 618-670-9721 Bluesuiter86@hotmail.com http://www.metroeastdiaperbank.org (non-Profit)

#### Recovery through Movement, LLC

Alex Schaefer
220 E. State St. 1-H
O'Fallon, IL 62269
808-283-9949
alexschaefer@recoverythroughmovement.com
www.recoverythroughmovement.com
(Medical-Physical Therapy)

#### **Etc. Event Planning & Marketing**

Ke'Ira Lewis 10850 Lincoln Trail, Ste 16 Fairview Heights, IL 62208 530-870-7894 Eventswithetc@gmail.com www.iamkdl.com (Event Planning & Marketing)

#### **Premier Cruises, Resorts and More**

Rosalind Newman O'Fallon, IL 62269 618-444-7932 rnewman@premiercruisesandresorts.com www.premiercrisesandresorts.com (Travel Agency)

#### The Red Team RE/MAX Results

Karlyn Slaydon 830 Admiral Weinel Blvd Columbia, IL 62236 405-550-5517 Karlyn.Redteam@gmail.com (Real Estate)

#### **Yummy Rice Bowls**

Micailah Parraco 204 Scott Troy Suite A O'Fallon, IL 62269 618-581-0793 meekasoto@gmail.com facebook-Yummy ride Bowls (restaurant)



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\_

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## MEMBER RENEWALS

#### **Star Investors**

President's Circle | HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital

Two Star Investor | HSHS Medical Group

#### **One Star Investors**

Ameren
C & C Sports
Central Bank
Coldwell Banker Brown Realtors
Country Estate Kennel, Inc.
Farmers and Merchants National Bank

First Bankers Trust
Guaranteed Rate Lending
Holland Construction
KB Homes Powered by KW Pinnacle
Lashley Animal Hospital
Spectra Graphics

Bella Milano, Inc.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwestern IL

Christone Enterprises, Inc

DeMond Signs, Inc

**Enjoy Church** 

Friends of Scott SCCS Rotary Club

Greenmount Lakes Apartments, LLC

Greensfelder Hemker & Gale, P.C.

June's Breakfast + Patio

K.W. Marquee Barry Schulhofer

Lagniappe Landscaping, Inc.

Loring Financial of Raymond James

Louer Facility Planning Inc.

Ned Properties, Inc.

O'Fallon Area Habitat for Humanity

O'Fallon Columbus Club

Parkway Gardens Senior Living

Peel Wood Fired Pizza and Brewery

**Redbird Pediatrics** 

Reflections LTD

Rita Duckworth Writing & Editing

Rotary Club of O'Fallon Sunrise

Schildknecht Funeral Home

Southern IL Builders Association

St. Clair Square

St. Paul United Church of Christ

Strano & Associates

Tamarack Country Club

The Garden Salon & Spa

The Prime Group-REMAX Preferred

Three Sisters Crafts

Top to Bottom Skincare

VFW Post 805

Wittenauer Properties, LLC

Wolfersberger Funeral Home

#### YOUR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE STAFF

Debbie Arell-Martinez - E-mail President/CEO

Melissa Federhofer - <u>E-mail</u> Marketing & Communications Manager

Johnnie Hodges - <u>E-mail</u> Membership Coordinator Doris Obernuefemann - <u>E-mail</u> Operations Manager

Jessica Lotz - E-mail Leadership & Development Coordinator

Jonathan Simmons - <u>E-mail</u> Member Engagement 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.

## MEMBER NEWS

HORNER & SHIFRIN ACQUIRES CLARIDA & ZIEGLER ENGINNERING CO.



Horner & Shifrin has acquired Clarida & Ziegler Engineering Co. (CZE) located in Marion, Illinois. Founded in 1965 by Glenn Clarida, CZE provides engineering and surveying services for municipalities, water districts, and commercial and residential developers.

Since their founding, CZE has grown to 20 full-time employees. Brian Ziegler, Owner and President, is dedicated to continuing the firm's reputation for quality service. Key members of the firm have experience in planning, design and construction of roadways, site development, sewage collection and treatment facilities, and water treatment and distribution facilities. CZE also offers topographic surveying, legal surveying, ALTA surveys and construction staking. Their firm's extensive knowledge and experience allow them to provide cost-effective solutions and superior service to their clients. H&S is looking forward to their continued service and the added value they can provide to Horner & Shifrin's clients.

"We are excited to welcome CZE to the Horner & Shifrin family. H&S has an established relationship with CZE, having worked together on a variety of projects over the last few years, and our experience and relationships will complement each other greatly," said H&S President Steve Donahue in an address to staff. "Having grown up in Marion, I am very familiar with the area and as a firm we are committed to continuing CZE's exemplary track record of enhancing the quality of life in southern Illinois."

As part of the acquisition, the entire CZE team will join H&S, including Owner and President Brian Ziegler, who will serve as Associate Vice President and Regional Manager. Mr. Ziegler will continue to focus on

business development and operations, supporting Horner & Shifrin's strategic growth plans throughout southern Illinois. "Becoming a part of the H&S team will provide great benefit to CZE's clients and employees. We will have the ability to access additional staff to move our projects forward, along with providing additional capabilities. Our employees will have the comfort of a stable transition plan for CZE while they themselves will soon become employee-owners at H&S," said Mr. Ziegler.

GREENSFELDER ATTORNEY SCOTT CRUZ APPOINTED TO SERVE ON ILLINOIS LABOR ADVISORY BOARD

GREENSFELDER

Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker has appointed Greensfelder, Hemker & Gale Officer Scott Cruz to the state's Labor Advisory Board, which advises on labor policy and the Illinois Department of Labor's enforcement of laws and statutes. Cruz is a labor and employment attorney who represents both public and private sector employers and will bring key perspectives from employers to the board.

Cruz is one of seven new members whose appointment to the Labor Advisory Board the governor announced January 30, 2023, pending Illinois Senate confirmation.

"This is an important time for the work of this board, with recent changes in the law including amendments to the Illinois One Day Rest in Seven Act and the recently passed Paid Sick Leave for All Workers Act," Cruz said. "I look forward to having a voice in helping shape these and other policies that will have significant impacts on employers and employees statewide."

Cruz received a bachelor of arts from Marquette University and his law degree from the University of Illinois. He is active in numerous chambers of commerce throughout the state, helping to provide education to their members on changes in the law that affect employers of all sizes. He also is active in trade organizations statewide including the Illinois Manufacturers' Association and the Illinois Bankers Association, where shares his knowledge of updates in labor and employment law regularly with other members.

TOGETHER CREDIT UNION'S FOUNDATION OPENS APPLICATION PORTALS FOR COLLEGIATE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS



On Wednesday, February 1, 2023, Together Credit Union's Foundation, the Together Foundation, will begin accepting applications for its Together Foundation Community Scholarship and Vince Jacknewitz Scholarship Programs.

Together Foundation Community Scholarship Program

The Together Foundation Community Scholarship Program is designed to help offset the costs associated with post-secondary education expenses for students attending a university or college, two-year college, business, or technical/trade school during the fall semester of the 2023-2024 school year.

The Together Foundation Community Scholarship is open to applicants, ages 15 to 23, who live or work in St. Louis City, St. Louis County, St. Charles County, and Jefferson County, MO, or live or work in Madison County, IL, and St. Clair County, IL. As part of the application process, applicants are asked to submit an information packet, including an official high school transcript, a letter of acceptance from the college of choice, a letter of recommendation, and a written or video

essay. Applications for the Together Foundation Community Scholarship are accepted until Thursday, March 31st.

Vince Jacknewitz Scholarship Program Together Foundation will also begin accepting applications for its Vince Jacknewitz Scholarship Program. Applicants must be members of the credit union's Young Adult Financial Group and are asked to submit an application packet, including an official high school transcript, a letter of acceptance from the college of choice, a letter of recommendation, and a written or video essay. Applications for the Vince Jacknewitz Scholarship are accepted until Thursday, March 31st.

Since 1994, Together Foundation, along with Together Credit Union's support, has awarded more than 150 scholarships to college-bound seniors. To date, more than \$200,000 in scholarship dollars have been awarded through the scholarship programs.

For questions, please visit Together Foundation's website or email branding@togethercu.org. For more information regarding this release, please contact Julie Linder, PR & Events Strategist, (573) 268-0639.

#### U.S. NEWS LISTS MCKENDREE ONLINE PROGRAMS AMONG THE BEST IN 2023



U.S. News and World Report has recognized five McKendree University online degree programs, ranking them among the nation's best in U.S. News' annual list of "Best Online Programs" for 2023.

McKendree's online graduate education program rose from no. 102 to no. 89. Other McKendree University rankings included online graduate nursing programs, online MBA programs, online bachelor's programs, and online bachelor's in business programs.

"McKendree University provides quality educational experiences for students in multiple delivery formats," said Dr. Melissa Meeker, dean of Worldwide Programs. "It is an honor to be recognized by U.S. News and World Report as one of the 'Best Online Programs' in several academic areas."

The University's online program offers bachelor's degrees in psychology, sociology-criminal justice, business administration, healthcare management, computer information systems and nursing. The Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) degree is available with the option of majors in accounting, business administration, cyber defense, entrepreneurship, human resource management, management, marketing, sport management, and supply chain management and logistics. Graduate students can earn master's degrees online in education (MAED), health administration (MHA), business administration (MBA) and nursing (MSN). A Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree is also available online. The MBA is available with concentrations in corporate finance, cyber defense, digital marketing and human resource management. The MSN is available with concentrations in education, management/administration and population health.

For more information about McKendree Online programs, please contact the Office of Admission at 1-800-BEARCAT or email online@mckendree.edu.

#### GCS DONATES TO 3 LITTLE BIRD 4 LIFE



GCS Credit Union kicked off their 2023 Smile for Jeans Program and has added one smile to their Smile File. GCS

employees joined together to raise \$1,136.85 in the month of January to benefit 3 Little Birds 4 Life.

The Smile for Jeans Program is funded by GCS employees who make monthly, monetary donations out of their own pockets to a local organization. By donating \$15 or more to a specific organization, GCS employees are able to wear jeans and tennis shoes on Fridays and Saturdays during that month. Nothing gets better than seeing a smile on organization's face when GCS Credit Union presents them with a jeans donation check. GCS Credit Union's 2023 Smile for Jeans Program focuses on supporting our local communities that we work, play and live in. During the month of January, GCS employees proudly raised \$1,136.85 for 3 Little Birds 4 Life. 3 Little Birds 4 Life is a nonprofit organization that started in 2010 when founder, Ashley Swip, lost brother, Tyler, to malignant melanoma. The family wanted to spread kindness around like confetti to local cancer patients. 3 Little Bird 4 Life sends Birdie Boxes and Celebration Boxes to local Siteman Cancer Centers to help spread kindness to patients who are fighting or who have won their fight

against cancer. With the support from GCS Credit Union, 3 Little Bird for Life will be able to put more smiles on faces and spread more kindness like confetti. To show your support for 3 Little Birds for Life, visit 3littlebirds4life.org. To find out more about GCS Credit Union, visit myGCScu.com

Find more Member News on our website:

OFallonChamber.com

Have a News Release you'd like to share?
Log in to your account and post yourself or email

Chamber@OFallonChamber.com

## EMPLOYMENT NEWS AND INFO

#### BILL MANDATES PAID LEAVE FOR ANY REASON FOR ILLINOIS EMPLOYEES

The Illinois legislature recently passed the Paid Leave for All Workers (PLFAW) Act, which will require most Illinois employers to provide their employees working in Illinois with up to 40 hours of paid leave they can take for any reason during a designated 12-month period. Once signed by Governor Pritzker, the PLFAW Act will become effective on January 1, 2024.

Below are a select few questions and answers addressing important provisions under the PLFAW Act. To read a full-length summary of important details on the act, please visit https://www.greensfelder.com/employment-and-labor-blog/bill-mandates-paid-leave-for-any-reason-for-illinois-employees.

#### Q: Which Illinois employers will be covered?

A: The PLFAW Act adopts an expansive definition of employer, which includes private sector employers regardless of size (e.g., one or more employees) and the state and units of local governments, or any state or local governmental agency. However, Illinois school districts organized under the Illinois School Code and Illinois park districts organized under the Illinois Park District Code are not included.

The PLFAW Act does not apply to employers who currently are covered by a municipal or county ordinance that is in effect as of January 1, 2024, and which requires the employer to provide any form of paid leave to their employees, including paid sick leave or other paid leave.

#### Q: How much paid leave is required under the PLFAW Act?

A: Employees are entitled to earn and use up to a minimum of 40 hours of paid leave, or a pro rata number of hours of paid leave, during a 12-month period the employer designates in writing. Employers have the option to frontload by providing the entire 40 hours in a lump sum on the first day of employment or the first day of a designated 12-month period. Or, employers can have employees accrue paid leave at the rate of one hour of paid leave

for every 40 hours worked, up to a minimum of 40 hours of paid leave, or such greater amount if the employer chooses to provide more than 40 hours of paid leave under the PLFAW Act.

#### Q. What rate of pay will the PLFAW require employers to use to calculate paid leave?

A: Employers will be required to pay employees their standard hourly rate of pay for paid leave provided under the PLFAW Act. Employees who are paid gratuities or commissions as part of their wages must be paid at least the applicable full minimum wage in the jurisdiction in which they are employed when paid leave is taken.

#### Q: Are there specific reasons employees will be able use paid leave under the PLFAW Act?

A: No, employees will be able use earned paid leave for any reason. Employees will be able use paid leave provided under the PLFAW Act for "any reason of the employee's choosing." In fact, under the PLFAW Act, employees will not be required to provide their employers with any reason for the need to use paid leave, and employers cannot require that employees provide documentation or certification as proof or in support of the need for the paid leave.

Specific details are expected Fall, 2023. The Chamber will host an information session at that time.

Employers with questions about how this affects them may reach Greensfelder Employment & Labor Attorney Scott Cruz at scruz@greensfelder.com or 312-345-5008.



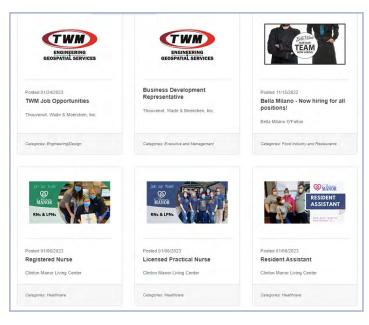
GREENSFELDER

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

SimplyHR | Employment & Labor Blog

Scott Cruz 312.345.5008 scruz@greensfelder.com

### **CHAMBER JOB BOARD**



Did you know that as a Chamber Member you have complimentary access to submit your job postings on our website? AND all job postings are automatically shared to the Chamber's Facebook page!

#### It's as easy at 1, 2, 3!

Log in to your <u>Member Portal</u> and then follow these easy steps to submit your job posting today!

Don't have a member log-in or are unsure what yours is? No worries! Reach out to the Chamber and we can help you with that. 618-632-3377

Check out our job posting page: of allonchamber.chambermaster.com/jobs/





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## HEALTHCARE & WELLNESS

The Healthcare & Wellness Committee promotes healthcare and wellness in the O'Fallon-Shiloh communities throught healtchare leadership, partnerships, education and advocacy. This committee is made up of chamber members who are in the health and wellness industry. This month, we are highliting Home Instead. Committee member, Cindy Hill discusses what Home Instead is all about!

In-home care services can help people at any point within the aging process. Home Instead will work with you to develop a personalized care plan tailored to help fit your family's needs.

Our expert care provides all the support people need to live well wherever they call home. Personal care assistance helps adults maintain dignity as they age while receiving the care needed to stay healthy and independent. Our expert Care Pros can help prevent your loved one from feeling lonely by proving companionship.

Living with a chronic health condition can feel overwhelming and draining for everyone involved. Our skilled caregivers relieve the burden with person-centered care tailored to individual needs.

Our free, no-obligation Care Consultation can help you decide the best care option for your family, while providing valuable information as you work through your loved ones needs and wishes and consider your options.



For more information, visit our website, <u>www.</u> homeinstead.com.

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Cindy Hill Home Care Consultant

2321 Country Rd, Belleville, IL 62221



#### BATTLING CANCER AS A HOSPICE NURSE

By Joy Reker, RN Field Staff Nurse for Hospice of Southern Illinois - Hospice of Southern Illinois

One in 18 million-that's me, one in 18 million cancer survivors. Before my diagnosis, cancer was no stranger to me. I've worked many years as a hospice nurse and had helped many cancer patients in their end-of-life journey. Like the beginning of many breast cancer stories, it was time for my routine mammogram, but the wait time was 4 months until the next appointment. While I was experiencing some pain, I thought this to be sympathetic pain related to my daughter, who was battling breast cancer at that time. While I tried to excuse the pain and told myself everything was fine, my primary care physician scheduled me for a diagnostic mammogram. As I had suspected, cancer was found.

I was assigned a surgeon, and to my luck, he was one of the best! He said my cancer was slow growing, and to combat the unsteady circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic, I could wait 6 months before starting treatment. I opted to start treatment as soon as possible. Together, my family, my oncologist, and I created a plan. I would have the mass removed and be off for about a month. After this, I would be set up with a radiation oncologist and could continue to work during the treatment.

For the first time, my daughter's experience with cancer was a positive thing, as she knew all the questions to ask, so my journey was smoother. While armed with plenty of PTO and 9 years of sick leave, my advice to those battling cancer while working full-time is to speak honestly with your HR department. They are a tool to help you in the face of a diagnosis so you can fully understand FMLA, PTO, and all your benefits. Time off is an estimation from your physician; remain open to and document conversations between HR, yourself, and your physician.

My pre-surgical life was a cycle of shopping for bandages and stocking up on my post- surgery needs. As a medical professional, I learned a valuable lesson from the staff preparing me for surgery. It is important to make patients part of the process. When we better understand our care process, it makes the entire surgical process more manageable. I was able to manage my pain and did my assigned exercises.

My oncologist walked me through my results and the entire process. The tumor stage is contingent on the size, grade, and margins of your tumor. He shared that a small portion of my tumor had aggressive cells and that I had stage 1C cancer. He also suggested Oncotype testing. This type of testing tells how likely your cancer will respond to treatment and if chemo is needed. With no treatment, my cancer would return in maybe 2 years. With chemo, my chance of it not returning was over 90%. Prioritize finding a doctor who is supportive and shares facts. How lucky were both my daughter and I to have a wonderful oncologist!

Chemo is an extremely taxing process, but take this experience one treatment at a time. No matter the type of cancer, prepare for nausea, drink lots of fluids, and stock up on soft foods. During non-chemo weeks prioritize foods high in iron and other nutrients. Spinach and liverwurst were the base of many of my meals, which may not sound the greatest, but you won't be able to taste anything. Your medical team will make sure you're stocked on medications, creams, and ointments for common, chemo-related pains.

One of the most helpful parts of my journey was my radiation oncologist, who is a stage III breast cancer survivor. During my first visit, she spent 2 hours explaining everything. We talked about eyelashes, skin, hair, and appetite. She explained what treatment would look like and all the "why's" around this part of treatment. She gave good information and recommendations for herbal supplements and lotions, and I needed it. After all this, I was able to return to work and resume normal activities during radiation. With the help of my doctors, family, and care team, I finished my treatment!

Like many, a battle with cancer led me to reflect on my life choices. I keep generally active, eat a well-rounded diet, alcohol is a rarity, and I've never been a smoker. Paired with my time as a hospice nurse, I know that illnesses like kidney disease, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and cancer are sometimes sneaky. I am here today because I was proactive, and you can be too! If you have a direct relative that has cancer, ask your physician if you need to start routine testing. Genetic and genome testing are also options that aren't limited to strictly cancer. My mother, daughter, and I all had cancer of a similar nature due to a genetic trait. Through this investigative work, my daughter and I remain cancer free!

When supporting someone with cancer or a serious illness, although they may look a little more tired and pale, do not treat them like they are dying. In fact, it's important to them to live in the present. Caregivers may be a little worn down as well. If you want to help someone battling a serious illness, an option is to give aid to their caregiver. That way they can be a little more present for their loved ones. Offer to help with children, walk the dog, do laundry, or provide a meal. These little gestures can be helpful to the care system.

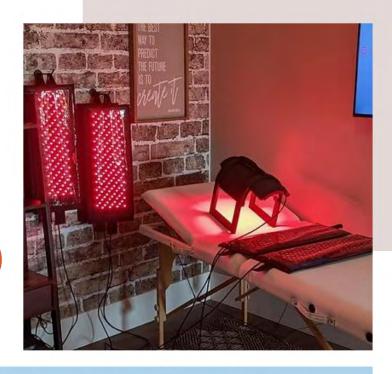
Resilient is a term I'd use to describe myself. I have embraced my new look on life and have been lucky to resume all my day-to-day activities, including my position as a hospice nurse. My career is a blessing, and I feel as though I can bring a new outlook while continuing to care with compassion and dedication. It's no secret that facing a serious illness will force you to walk firmer and reset your priorities.

After my journey with cancer, I've come to look at illness less clinically. Trust, time, and communication are as important as equipment and medication. I know that not just the patient, but also the caregiver suffers a wide range of doubts. Acceptance of illness does not mean a loss of hope, and denial does no good when facing life's obstacles. Life is about living, no matter what stage you are at, and with that, we can all find hope. Whether it's for the small things like being able to hang your Christmas ornaments one day or for the big things like a life without pain or getting to go on another camping trip! Everything counts and I'm so thrilled to be one in 18 million.

## We are now offering Red Light Therapy! THE FUTURE OF **MEDICINE**

## **CHIRO-MED**

#### **HEALTH & WELLNESS**



We are light based organisms. We are greatly affected by light. In fact, how we sleep, how we feel, how we function is directly controlled by light. Wouldn't it make sense that light was a significant part of your daily routine? Red Light triggers the formation of small openings or pores in the fat cells, which releases fatty acids know as lipids. The fluid escapes into your lymphatic system, where your body processes it through your liver.

In addition, we use a variety of weight loss kits designed to support metabolic hormones, increase fat metabolism, decrease unwanted food cravings, and increase overall health. Our weight loss program is simple, fast, and fun allowing you to have an autopilot program with quick, permanent results.

#### Red Light Therapy benefits include:

- -Red Light Therapy creates a healthy glow about your face
- -Smooths overall skin tone
- -Supports building collagen, reducing wrinkles, including crow's feet
- -Wrinkles, forehead wrinkles & laugh lines
- -Speeds the healing of blemishes, like acne and rosacea
- -Repairs sun damage
- -Reduces redness, flushing, and broken capillaries
- -Fades scars and stretch marks
- -Brings more moisture to your skin
- -Prevents hair loss & stimulates regrowth Call to book your Red Light and weight loss consultation today!

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## **BUSINESS TRACK ARTICLE**

#### 88% of Hiring Managers Would Consider Firing Workers for Content in Personal Social Media Posts

https://www.refreshleadership.com/index.php/2023/01/88-of-hiring-managers-would-consider-firing-workers-for-content-in-personal-social-media-posts/



Personal social media posts are not off limits to employment determinations as 88% of U.S. hiring managers say they would consider firing employees for content found in workers' posts, according to a survey from The Harris Poll commissioned by Express Employment Professionals.

Fireable offenses include publishing content damaging the company's reputation (59%), revealing confidential company information (58%), showcasing and/or mentioning illegal drug use (50%), violating the company's social media use policy or contract (45%) and showcasing and/or mentioning underage drinking (38%).

Only 12% of U.S. hiring managers say there is nothing a company could fire an employee for based on their social media posts.

When asked the same question, the majority of job seekers (86%) agree companies can fire employees based on their social media posts that reveal confidential company information (64%), violate the company's social media use policy or contract (58%) or damage the company's reputation (57%). Further scrutiny

extends to content showcasing and/or mentioning illegal drug use (50%) or underage drinking (43%) and showcasing and/or mentioning beliefs different than those held by the company (21%).

#### **Social Media Use on the Clock**

1 in 4 employers (40%) discourage the use of social media during work hours, while 30% provide resources and information on professional social media etiquette. Twenty-six percent of companies have a social media use policy/contract that employees must sign, and 25% encourage their workers to build their personal brand on social media.



Leadership blocks social media sites on company property at 19% of businesses, 17% view or monitor employees' social media accounts and 13% have access to employees' social media accounts.

#### Access to Workers' Accounts

"Employees should limit social media use to only breaks and lunchtime," said Mike Brady, a Florida Express franchise owner. "Without a doubt, social media consumption eats into productive time in the workplace, so personal social media should be conducted on personal time."

Despite the distinction between personal social media and company-driven usage, Brady believes employers should only actively monitor online accounts used for business. This would apply to more professional positions versus light industrial.

Reggie Kaji, an Express franchise owner in Michigan, however, asserts due to the potential negative impacts on the company's reputation, even the personal social media accounts of workers are fair game.

"If a potential customer or a current one follows an employee on social media and doesn't agree with their content, it can harm the relationship," he said. "Especially with politics and today's polarizing environment, I prefer not to follow coworkers and customers on most social media other than LinkedIn."

Regardless of privacy beliefs, both Kaji and Brady say certain content posted online would constitute termination, including anything racist, raunchy, and/ or calling out of anyone affiliated with a company in an unprofessional manner and threats or threatening comments.

#### **Professional Online Presence**

One tactic to help mitigate inappropriate posts by employees is to have them commit to a company social media use policy.

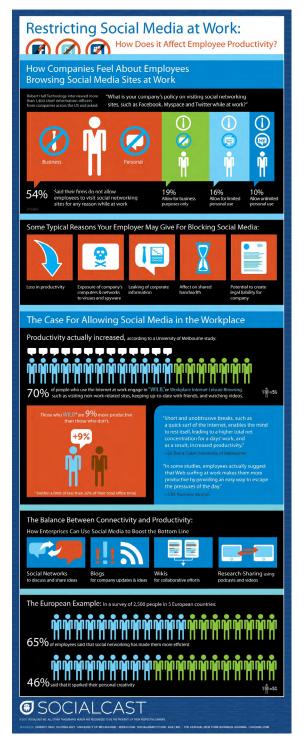
"We have a policy in place, and it's in our handbook," Kaji said. "I think it's important to set expectations so if employees violate the policy, it's not a surprise." Brady is a little more hesitant to encourage a policy for what he calls a complicated situation.

"I think employers walk a very fine line here," he said. "On one side is the right to privacy and free speech and on the other is the employer's image. Especially in this day and age when accessibility is through the click of a button, the court of public opinion will almost automatically point the finger at the employer for 'why' they didn't know something was good, bad, right or wrong, even if it's on the employee's social media account."

Overall, according to Kaji, employers should remind

workers of the importance of maintaining a professional image on social media and how it could impact their careers since a lot of hiring managers look at social media as part of the hiring decision.

"Social media is a powerful tool for expression and connection, but a poor decision in content posting can haunt individuals the rest of their careers," Express Employment International CEO Bill Stoller said. "The best advice is to refrain from publishing anything you wouldn't want your boss to see or think you may regret in the future."





#### O'FALLON-SHILOH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BOARD NOMINATIONS

Jeff Dossett, O'Fallon-Shiloh Chamber of Commerce Board Chair, wishes to announce the following names as candidates for our two open positions on our 2023 Board of Directors: Cassidy Hoelscher and John Eichenlaub.





CASSIDY HOELSCHER

JOHN EICHENLAUB

Additional names for candidates for Board of Directors can be nominated by petition bearing the genuine signature of at least 5% of the qualified members of the O'Fallon-Shiloh Chamber of Commerce. Such a petition can be filed up until the close of business on Feb 10th.

Nominated to fill two board openings: Cassidy Hoelscher, The Rehabilitation Institute of Southern Illinois AND John Eichenlaub, BARBERMurphy Group

#### **UPCOMING CHAMBER EVENTS**



**RESTAURANT ROULETTE** | This is a pay as you go event. You can get an affordable lunch at all our participating restaurants.

- 1. Sign up for the lunch
- 2. Get randomly paired with a local restaurant
- 3. Meet your lunch partners they day of!

Location: Various Local Restaurants Date and Time: February 9, 2023 | 11:30 a.m.







**CHAMBER BOOK CLUB MEETING** | Not your grandma's book club meeting! Get together for engaging conversation about business, life and philosophy with great people in a casual, relaxed environment.

The Pumpkin Plan | Mike Michalowicz A simple strategy to grow a remarkable business in any field.

Location: Tye-Dyed Iguana| 1905 W. Hwy 50, Fairview Heights Date and Time: February 15, 2023 | 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Moderator: Matt Smallheer | The Tye-Dyed Iguana

RSVP TODAY!



**BUSINESS OVER BREAKFAST** | Have a free continental breakfast and get your business' name in front of 35+ potential contacts while getting to know more about our speaker(s) business!

Speakers:

Heather Freed | Big Brothers Big Sisters of Illinois Commander Chuck Jorgensen | American Legion

Location: Public Safety Building | 285 N. Seven Hills Rd, O'Fallon

Date and Time: February 24, 2023 | 8:00 a.m.





**MAXimize your Chamber Benefits!** | Are you a new Chamber member? Been with us for awhile and are interested in a benefit refresher? Thinking about joining our Chamber? All of you are invited to Join Us for a MAXimize Your Benefits session! We'll spend an hour finding out about you and giving you the details of a membership with the O'Fallon-Shiloh Chamber of Commerce!

Date and Time: February 28, 2023 | 8:30 a.m. Location: Chamber Depot | 116 E. First Street

**RSVP TODAY!** 



## ADVERTISE IN THE OTHS STUDENT PLANNER AND BE A PART OF HELPING STUDENTS SUCCEED!

The OTHS Agenda initiative is a result of a student-wide survey that showed the majority of OTHS's high-achieving students utilized a paper agenda book to stay organized for school. The goal of our Achievement GAP committee is to provide an OTHS Agenda for all OTHS students, and at no cost to those students. Our hope is that providing this resource will give our students a tool to support improvements in their academic achievement.

OTHS can only do this with YOUR help! Your advertisement in the planner will help to cover the cost of printing the planners. Depending on the amount of ads received, OTHS will be able to provide planners to every student, OR to every freshman. They would love to see their ad pages filled!

Deadline to purchase an ad is February 24, 2023

Reach out to <u>Debbie</u> for more information or to reserve your ad. 618-632-3377 or Director@OFallonChamber.com

#### ANNUAL EMPTY BOWL LUNCHEON

A simple meal served on Ash Wednesday in O Fallon IL of bread, soup and water. 100% of our profit benefit the O Fallon/Shiloh Food Pantry.

The fourteenth annual O'Fallon Empty Bowl Luncheon will be held at Gateway Classic Car in O'Fallon, IL, on Wednesday, February 22, 2023.

Hours are 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Participants can purchase bracelets ahead of time or at the door for \$10.

Scan the QR code on the flyer to purchase your tickets today! or visit the Facebook Event Page for more information: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/Emptybowlofallon">https://www.facebook.com/Emptybowlofallon</a>





IN THE DOWNTOWN DISTRICT

#### SHOP IN THE NAME OF LOVE!

Shop the Downtown District during the first two weeks of February and a portion of your purchases will go to support

\$5,000

Your \$20 ticket goes a long way

A \$15 donation to BCRF

prevent and cure breast cancer by advancing the world's

most promising research.

Celebrate our 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Three Sisters Pink Party

Wednesday – Saturday, February 8 – 11 At Three Sisters Crafts, 129 E. State St, O'Fallon various local charities! Each participating business will be offering specials. Scan the QR Code or visit the Facebook Event Page to see who's participating!

#### **In February**

The Downtown District wants to

#### **GIVE BACK**

Individual businesses will be supporting a variety of charities and offering various specials this month. Scan the QR code to learn who is participating.





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

satellite facility in Illinois

Center—the only

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



BJC HealthCare

memhosp.org



Join us every Friday morning for a snapshot of what's happening in the O'Fallon and Shiloh (Illinois) area right now. We'll give highlights of new developments and projects, details of upcoming events and report on good news happening in our community! Listen to The 618 Now to be in-the-know. This podcast is a production of the O'Fallon-Shiloh Chamber of Commerce and the O'Fallon Weekly.



O'Fallon-Shiloh's best-loved Podcast is now offering sponsorship opportunities! With a total of almost 19,000 listeners and growing, this is THE place you'll want to advertise. But don't wait! Spots are limited.

Only 1 sponsor per episode.

Each 20-second sponsor ad is aired mid-roll of an episode.

Download the Media Kit

Each sponsor gets a full month of ads (4 episodes per month)

Want to feature your business? Only \$200 for 4 weeks of sponsorship! Contact the Chamber office today!

618-632-3377 | Connect@OFallonChamber.com

HAVE AN IDEA for a podcast topic? Submit your idea for consideration!

Submit Your Idea

\*2 weeks advanced notice for event promotion is requested!



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

Click here or tap on the images to open and read the full newsletter!



# BUSINESS AFTER HOURS





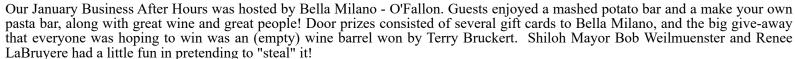






#### WATCH THE VIDEO ON OUR WEBSITE!





It's always a good time at our Business After Hours! Join us for our next one in March at *ApexNetwork Physical Therapy*. The event is free to attend but we do request an RSVP.

## January Ribbon Cuttings

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



#### **Supplies Plus**

1727 W. Hwy 50, Ste 200 OFallon, IL 62269 Welcome and Congrats!



Come out and support a fellow chamber member at our next Ribbon Cutting! Enjoy light refreshments and networking vou never know who vou may meet!

## SALUTE TO OUR STAR INVESTORS











#### TWO STAR INVESTORS







#### **ONE STAR INVESTORS**

1st National Bank of Waterloo American Family Insurance Scott Buchtel

Associated Bank Auffenberg Dealer Group Bank of Belleville

Bank of O'Fallon Belleville News Democrat/O'Fallon

**BOS** Metro East Banking Center

Booz Allen Hamilton Busey Bank Care Access

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

Guaranteed Rate Lending

HD Painting & Stain Co.

Hilton Garden Inn

**Holland Construction Services** 

Illinois American Water Jack Schmitt Auto World

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

Morrison Plumbing Heating & Air Navy Federal Credit Union O'Fallon Shiloh Towing **OST Container** Regency Manor Regions Bank Revela at O'Fallon Sandberg Phoenix Serenity & Hope Counseling Serra Honda of O'Fallon Schaefer Auto Body Centers Scott Credit Union Sigman Heating and Air Conditioning Spectra Graphics Taylor Roofing 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

Washington University Physicians -Pediatric Specialty Ćare Water Sweets Soap Company

Webster University at SAFB

Wisper Internet

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#### **EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Jeff Dossett, Board Chair Memorial Hospital Belleville | Shiloh

Nathan Klitzing, Vice Chair Cambridge Capital Management Kevin Meder, Treasurer

Cindy Helmkamp - Imm. Past Chair Together Credit Union

#### **2022-2023 BOARD MEMBERS**

Melissa Fanning United Way of Greater St. Louis

Jon Greenstreet Bike Surgeon

Dan Jackson Carrollton Bank

Donna Richter Southern Illinois Builders Assoc.

Kurt Schroeder Greensfelder, Hemker & Gale, P.C. Susan Schultz Holland Construction

Tony Smallman BARBER Murphy Group, Inc.

Kevin Welch 1st National Bank of Waterloo

Mike Williams Serra Honda Ex-Officio

Mayor Herb Roach City of O'Fallon

Mayor Robert Weilmuenster Village of Shiloh

Josh Kinney | Lead In Cornerstone Christian Church

**Mayoral Representative** 

Brenda Kern Village of Shiloh

#### **CHAMBER AMBASSADORS**

Don Barkley

Debbie Brauer

Jaclyn Gross TownePlace Suites by Marriott

Cindy Hill Home Instead

Erik Huber Bank of Springfield

Reneé La Bruyere Horner & Shiffrin Nathan Parchman Farmers & Merchants National Bank

Lindsay Porzeinski Home Heating & Cooling

Dr. Shelly Severns, DC

Dave Snyder Rotary Club of O'Fallon

Ginni Stajduhar Nothing Bundt Cakes - Fairview Hts Raven Trebilcock Legacy Planning, LLC

Lisa Vorce Thrivent Financial - Lisa Vorce

Justin Ward 1st National Bank of Waterloo

Sheri Welch







#### Illinois South is now Discover Downstate Illinois!

For more than a decade, ILLINOISouth Tourism has grown its awareness throughout the region as it helps promote communities, businesses, attractions, and events in their 20-plus county coverage area of Southern Illinois. Today the bureau is announcing that after ten years of being known as ILLINOISouth, they are rebranding to Discover Downstate Illinois, which will take effect immediately.

Read more about these exciting changes!



Voters should save the date!

## CANDIDATE FORUM TO BE HELD MARCH, 2023 FOR UPCOMING ELECTIONS

The O'Fallon-Shiloh Chamber of Commerce, O'Fallon Weekly, and O'Fallon Progress will cohost a series of Candidate Forums in support of the upcoming April elections. These forums provide our residents with a chance to get to know the candidates and provide them with the information they may need to make an informed vote. Forums are held for contested races only.

Forums will be held in Shiloh on March 9, 2023 and in O'Fallon on March 16, 2023 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. More info to come!

Are you a candidate? Please fill out the form on our website with your biographical information by March 1, 2023

Candidate Biography submission



## So you can focus on what matters most.

Being together always brings a smile. We will be by your side with expert care so that you can get back to sharing memorable moments. We are here with you so you can focus on what matters most.

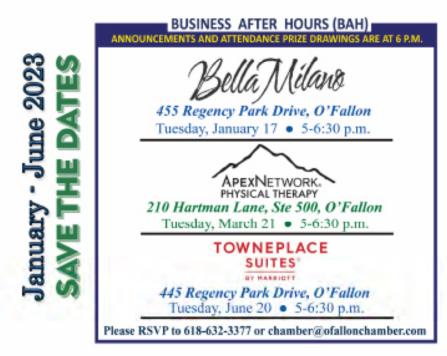
Learn more at steliz.org/herewithyou



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

#### Would you like to be the first page of our next newsletter? Let us know! chamber@ofallonchamber.com | 618-632-3377



#### RESTAURANT ROULETTE

Thursday, February 9 11:30 a.m. Thursday, March 9 Thursday, June 8

11:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m.

Have an exceptional networking lunch 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!

Wednesday, February 8 Tuesday, May 2

5:30 p.m. 5:30 p.m.

#### BUSINESS OVER BREAKFAST (BOB)

Friday, January 27 8:00 a.m. Friday, February 24 8:00 a.m. Friday, April 28 8:00 a.m. Friday, June 23 8:00 a.m.

all BOB events located at

Public Safety Building • 285 N. Seven Hills Road, O'Fallon