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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



Raising Minimum wage to \$15 is a current hot topic.

If the Raise the Wage Act passes and the rate gets raised to \$15 per hour, it would be the largest ever percentage increase in U.S. history. Read the pros and cons and see what each state's current minimum wage is.

Page 10

LAST CHANCE to get your tickets for our 45th Annual Salute to Business Awards Luncheon. See what's new on the menu this year!

Page 4

With our Board of Director change over this month, we wanted to give a shout out to our current Board!

Page 17

NEW MEMBERS

Z. D. Richardson Notary Services

Zenetta Delisa Richardson
O’Fallon, IL 62269
618-698-5174
zdrichardsonnotary@yahoo.com
(Business Services)

Health Visions Midwest

Becky Kinzel
1269 N. 89th St.
East St. Louis, IL 62203
618-271-7000
bkinzel@hvusa.org
www.hvusa.org
(non-profit)

J. Harris Photography

Jason Harris
Fairview Heights, IL 62208
618-709-9369
Jason.harris@jharrisphotography.com
www.jharrisphotography.com
(Photography & Media)

Jazzy Creations by Freda, LLC

Freda Banks
10850 Lincoln Trail Suite 16
Fairview Heights, IL 62208
618-800-6611
freda@jazzycreations.org
www.jazzycreations.org
(Food and Beverage)

Overcomer’s Quest

Christina Krag
O’Fallon, IL 62269
618-406-1555
cpkrag@gmail.com
www.overcomersquest.com
(Personal coaching)

Toast & Table

Stacy Fangmeyer
O’Fallon, IL 62269
618-530-3236
stacy@toastandtable.com
http://www.toastandtable.com
(Retail)

First Priority

Larry Bragg
Belleville, IL 62222
618-806-4689
larry@fp618.com
www.fp618.com
(non profit)

Los Amigos

Salvador Vazquez
950 Talon Dr.
O’Fallon, IL 62269
618-726-7000
Salvadorvazquez934@gmail.com
Carminaroman2@gmail.com
(Restaurant)



 **WHY JOIN THE CHAMBER?**

- **Make new contacts**
- **Grow your business**
- **Learn new skills**
- **Get involved in the community**
- **Have fun!**

KNOW SOMEONE WHO COULD BENEFIT FROM BEING A CHAMBER MEMBER?

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](#)

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One Star Investors

Associated Bank
Revela at O'Fallon
Schaefer Autobody Center
The Record/Madison & St. Clair

Animal Hospital of O'Fallon
Beth Ortega Group RE/MAX Preferred
Century 21 Bailey & Co.
Debbie's
Egyptian Workplace Partners
Envisioning Green
Family Hospice
Gateway Classic Cars
HomeTown Dental
Hughes Group LLC
John Coers
Lucky Dog and Barks Recreation
Mayor Herb Roach
St. Clair County Intergovernmental Grants
Salvatore Cincotta Photography, Inc.
Sam's Club
The Garage Door Shop
Thirteen01 Hartman Lakes Apartments
Trailhead Capital Management Group
Trinity Services
Vollman Advertising

YOUR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE STAFF

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

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

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

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

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

Jonathan Simmons - [E-mail](#)
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.

SALUTE TO BUSINESS AWARDS



The O'Fallon-Shiloh Chamber of Commerce will host the 45th Annual Salute to Business Awards honoring businesses that have made a particularly positive impact in the community at a luncheon on Wednesday, May 10, 2023. This luncheon is a premier event in our community – our last awards luncheon was in 2019 – we are so excited to be able to host again!

Recipients being recognized:

The 50 West Building
Economic Impact Award Recipient

The Rehabilitation Institute of Southern IL
Economic Impact Award Recipient

June's Breakfast + Patio
Beautification Award Recipient

VFW Post 805 & VFW Auxiliary
Rotary Clubs of O'Fallon Community Service Award Recipient

**REGISTER
TODAY!**

Ambassador Impact Award

Shh! It's a surprise! The Ambassador Impact award recipient is announced during our event luncheon.

THANKS TO ALL OF OUR SPONSORS!



SALUTE TO BUSINESS AWARDS

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

The Regency Conference Center
May 10, 2023 | 11:30 a.m.

Event Sponsors



**HSHS
St. Elizabeth's
Hospital**



Bank of O'Fallon



CEFCU
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FUNERAL HOME
& CREMATION SERVICES**




Award Sponsors



**GREENSFELDER
ATTORNEYS AT LAW**





**Rotary
Clubs in O'Fallon**

SEE WHAT'S NEW ON THE MENU THIS YEAR!

Spring Salad with Asian and Ranch Dressings

Buffet:

- Beef and Broccoli
- Grilled Teriyaki Chicken
- Asian Green Beans
- Jasmine Rice
- Crab Rangoon










Tea/Water





GRAND *Re-Opening*

RIBBON CUTTING AT 11:30 PM



**MAY 18TH
11:00 PM – 2:00 PM**

Join us with the O'Fallon Commerce for our grand re-opening. This includes free adjustments for current patients, vendors/food, and a chance to win fun prizes.

618-622-2222



HEALTHCARE & WELLNESS

The Healthcare & Wellness Committee promotes healthcare and wellness in the O'Fallon-Shiloh communities through healthcare leadership, partnerships, education and advocacy. This committee is made up of chamber members who are in the health and wellness industry. This month, Committee member Carla Boswell talks about PSOP!



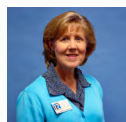
SWIC Programs and Services for Older Persons (PSOP) is celebrating its 50th year of providing a wide variety of services, programs and activities promoting healthy aging for adults aged 55-plus. PSOP is committed to active aging through engagement in physical, mental and volunteer activities which facilitate seniors to thrive, remaining vibrant and connected to others and the world at large.

PSOP's programming promotes lifelong learning based on topics of interest and enjoyment. Trained staff assist seniors to access and receive multiple public benefits and services including the Senior Health Insurance Program, Benefits Access and other government benefit programs. Fun and educational group travel experiences to exciting destinations, including day trips and extended tours within the United States, as well as international travel and cruises are available. The Older Adult and Caregiver Counseling Program through PSOP offers short term counseling for St. Clair County residents over the age of 60, or for those who provide caregiving for a family member or friend over the age of 60. The Service Coordination Program serves seniors and disabled residents

living in subsidized housing with referrals to service providers, advocacy and complaint resolution, linkage with SWIC/PSOP programs, and individual needs assessment. Information on affordable housing options is also available.

PSOP also invites older adults to enrich their lives through volunteer service. AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers use their acquired skills, knowledge, and experience to make a difference to individuals, nonprofits and other community organizations.

Plug into PSOP and find supportive services for mind, body and spirit. For more information, visit our website, <https://www.swic.edu/community/senior-programs/psop>.



Carla Boswell
PSOP Site Manager
201 N. Church St.
Belleville, IL 62220
(618) 234-4410

Medical Director Minute: THE VALUE OF CASE MANAGEMENT IN HOSPICE CARE

<https://hospice.org/the-value-of-case-management-in-hospice-care/>



As the Medical Director at Hospice of Southern Illinois, I use the term "case manager" often in my day-to-day duties. It might be in terms of a request to have the case manager address a medication issue or the case manager follow up on an x-ray or laboratory result. However, I never spent much time considering what case management truly meant for our patients and their families. I just know that the system works, and it works well. However, after a family member of mine suffered a very serious injury in December 2022, I quickly learned that not all compartments of health care delivery operate the same. Even as a physician, I have had multiple struggles navigating our healthcare and health insurance system to get my loved ones the care they need. The process, with all its frustration, made me truly realize the compassion and efficiency of case management.

In terms of CMS regulations, a hospice agency is required to designate a Registered Nurse to serve as a member of the Interdisciplinary Team. Your designated nurse may be referred to as a Case Manager or RN Coordinator. They are responsible for coordinating the implementation of the Plan of Care. Additionally, they may be responsible for offering direct nursing care to the patient and helping collaborate with the Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) for care delivery. CMS recognizes this role as vital as it ensures that care is quality and timely.

The Case Manager ensures that the Plan of Care remains updated, individualized, and relevant to the needs of the patient. This ensures that our patient's goals are met, and their families and caregivers receive the support they need. But what exactly does this look like in the day-to-day lives of our patients? The Case

Manager assesses the patient as frequently as deemed necessary by the IDT. This may be anywhere from once a week to daily. During this assessment, he or she determines if the patient's pain, or any other medical symptoms, is well managed.

If adjustments need to be made, they reach out immediately to the Hospice Medical Director, Associate Medical Director, Nurse Practitioner, or the patient's Attending Physician for instruction. At that point, any necessary prescriptions are sent to the pharmacy. The patient and their family are relieved of all the back and forth between providers. And therefore, have a plan for change almost always at the time of the visit.

The Case Manager also investigates the emotional and spiritual well-being of the patient and their family and involves the social worker, chaplain, and/or bereavement counselors as appropriate. The RN additionally sets up the Plan of Care for the Hospice Aide to provide hygiene and personal care. Safety evaluations are reviewed to ensure the patient is receiving that personal care in the safest route possible while preserving dignity. Needs for Durable Medical Equipment, such as wheelchairs, oxygen, and specialized mattresses, are determined. They are ordered for the patient by the Case Manager, and delivery is arranged to the patient's location of residence. All necessary supplies, such as wound care dressings and colostomy supplies, are ordered and delivered as well.

Furthermore, the Case Manager also arranges for the completion of any forms needed, such as FMLA or Handicap Parking placards. While these are the typical scenarios that arise, our Case Managers respond to all needs of our patients. They are the first line of contact and

arrange other services as needed. In a non-hospice setting, the items above would require multiple provider visits, phone calls, and waiting, all adding stress to an often-difficult time.

The process of caregiving is often overwhelming and labor-intensive for the families of those touched by a terminal illness. By removing all the barriers to care that exist in many healthcare areas, our families can feel supported by their hospice care team, and they can develop a trusting relationship with their Case Manager. A Hospice Case Manager is truly an advocate for the care of the hospice patient.

Resource:

1 Creating an effective hospice plan of care. (2022). Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/creating-effective-hospice-plan-care.pdf>



Dr. Ellen Middendorf
Hospice of Southern Illinois
800.233.1708 (On Call Support 24/7)
618.222.5905 (Local) /
618.222.6831 (Fax)



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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



O'FALLON-SHILOH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
DIGITAL BILLBOARD ADS
55/64 AT COLLINSVILLE AVE. & MARTIN LUTHER KING DR.
(EASTBOUND INTO IL)

HOW DOES IT WORK?

The Chamber of Commerce purchases a billboard ad which we split into 30 ad spots. Our members can purchase one (or more!) of those spots, allowing you to have a digital billboard ad at a FRACTION of the cost!

**52 weeks
\$1,350**

**32 weeks
\$900**

**20 weeks
\$600**

TYPE OF BILLBOARD: Digital LED
SIZE OF BILLBOARD: 14X49 ft
TRAFFIC COUNT: 133,110 vehicles daily
AD DIMENSIONS: 400 pixels high by 1400 pixels wide
AD FORMAT: JPG, PDF OR PNG

HAVE MORE QUESTIONS OR NEED MORE INFO?
Call the Chamber office: 618-632-3377



SIGN ME UP!

NAME: _____

BUSINESS NAME: _____

EMAIL: _____

PHONE #: _____

CHOOSE YOUR AD OPTIONS (SPOT IS NOT RESERVED UNTIL PAYMENT IS RECEIVED)

☐ 52 WEEKS | \$1,350

☐ 32 WEEKS | \$900

☐ 20 WEEKS | \$600

☐ I WOULD LIKE MORE THAN ONE AD

☐ I WOULD LIKE THE CHAMBER TO DESIGN MY AD | \$50

Please indicate how many ad spots you would like

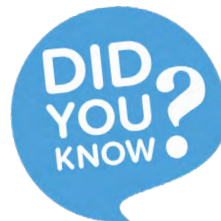
FAQ:

All ads must be approved by the O'Fallon-Shiloh Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber reserves the right to refuse/reject any ad copy.

1. How often will my ad show up? Each ad spot will appear 40 times per day, for 10 seconds at a time.
2. Can I purchase more than one ad spot? Yes! you can purchase as many as you want.
3. How often can I change out my ad copy? Ad copy can be changed out every quarter.
4. Can someone help me design my ad? We would be happy to design your ad for \$50.
5. Are there other advertisers on the billboard? Yes, there will be advertisers paying full price as well as chamber member advertisers.
6. How do I know my ad is running? You can request a "proof of play" report from us at any time which will show the dates your ad has been running.

We have a few Billboard ad spots left! Reserve your ad spot today!

Visit OFallonChamber.com/Billboard



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!



Stay in the know by subscribing to The 618 Now on your favorite podcast app

New Episodes Every Friday!

The618now.podbean.com

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.

MEDIA KIT

[Download the Media Kit](#)

- Only 1 sponsor per episode.
- Each 20-second sponsor ad is aired mid-roll of an episode.
- Sponsorship includes 4 ads.
- 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!*

UPCOMING CHAMBER EVENTS



Salute To Business Awards | Celebrate excellence in business at our 45th Annual Salute to Business Awards Luncheon!

Location: The Regency Conference Center | 400 Regency Park Dr, O'Fallon
Date and Time: May 10, 2023 | 11:30 a.m.

[RSVP TODAY!](#)



Ribbon Cuttings! | Come out and support a fellow Chamber member! Meet the owners, tour the facility and enjoy light refreshments. ALL are welcome to attend - bring a friend or co-worker!

- [Water Sweets Soap Company](#) | 705 Cambridge Blvd, Ste B, | May 11, 2023 | 12:00 p.m.
- [Chrio-Med Health Care Facilities](#) | 1480 N. Green Mount Rd, Ste 300 A | May 18, 2023 | 11:30 a.m.
- [Vine Street Market](#) | 212 E. 1st Street | May 20, 2023 | 7:45 a.m.
- [Premier Remodeling](#) | 502 W. State Street | May 25, 2023 | 12:00 p.m.
- [Los Amigos](#) | 950 Talon Dr. | May 31, 2023 | 11:00 a.m.

BUSINESS TRACK ARTICLE

How Will Increasing Minimum Wage Impact Small Businesses?

<https://sba.thehartford.com/business-management/small-biz-owner/pros-cons-minimum-wage/?cmp=EMC-SC-SBA-30603074&eml=1>



If the federal government passes the Raise the Wage Act, it will increase the national minimum wage to \$15 per hour. Whether you're for or against the Act, you can't deny that it's a hot topic.

Proponents of the act argue that increasing the minimum wage to \$15 per hour on a national scale could raise nearly 1 million people out of poverty, helping low-income families attain a higher standard of living.

Those who oppose the act argue that minimum wage increases will hurt small businesses, which make up the majority of U.S. employers. Small business owners were hit especially hard during the COVID-19 pandemic. Some people fear that increasing the minimum wage would further inflate labor costs, in some cases by more than 100%. To stay open, they argue, small businesses may need to reduce employee benefits and automate positions, which could lead to job loss.

About the Proposed \$15 Minimum Wage Increase

The last time the federal minimum wage rate increased was in 2009, when the rate went from \$6.55 per hour to the current rate of \$7.25. That makes this the longest period in U.S. history without a raise to the federal minimum wage rate.

If the Raise the Wage Act passes and the rate gets raised to \$15 per hour, it would be the largest ever percentage increase in U.S. history. The last time a percentage increase was even close to the current proposal was in 1950, when the minimum wage rate rose from \$0.40 to \$0.75 per hour.

Several amendments to the Fair Labor Standards Act mandated nearly annual increases to the U.S. minimum wage between 1960 and 1970 and between 1974 and 1981. While the 1990s and late 2000s saw several increases, the federal minimum wage has since stagnated. That's why some argue that it's time to pass the Raise the Wage Act of 2021 and, via scheduled increases, raise the federal minimum wage to \$15 per hour by 2025.

Supporters believe that the increase would provide a necessary boost to low-wage workers and stimulate the economy. Opponents argue that it could lead to job loss and the closure of many small businesses that can't afford a large increase in labor costs.

While the Act hasn't been passed at the federal level in Washington, D.C., some state legislatures have elected to raise their own minimum wages, bringing them closer to or even beyond the proposed \$15 rate.

The Minimum Wage Increase's Effects on Small Businesses

Many small business owners worry about the negative impact a \$15 minimum wage could have on their business. But, as with anything, the Raise the Wage Act has pros and cons. Depending on whom you ask, you'll hear different opinions. While it may seem like workers would enjoy all the pros while businesses would bear all the cons related to increases in the minimum wage, there could be both dark clouds and silver linings on each side.

What Are the Pros of a \$15 Minimum Wage Increase?

While the federal minimum wage has increased over time, the increases haven't consistently kept up with inflation rates. When you factor in today's cost of living, people who make \$7.25 per hour today are effectively earning 30% less than those who worked for minimum wage 50 years ago. Modern minimum wage workers have less purchasing power than those in the past. That's part of the reason some people believe that paying more than minimum wage can give businesses a competitive edge.

Read on to learn why supporters of a higher minimum wage say it could help both workers and employers.

Reduced Employee Turnover

Proponents of the Raise the Wage Act argue that higher wages may lead to increased job satisfaction and, ultimately, lower turnover rates. After historic quit rates in the early 2020s, this

may come as welcome news. After all, when small businesses can hold onto their employees longer, they don't need to hire and train new employees as often, which saves time and money. And employees enjoy more stability in their careers.

Improved Worker Productivity

Some studies have shown that higher wages can lead to increased productivity. The idea is that employees are more motivated and better focused when they feel they are fairly compensated for their work.

Increased Economic Activity

When people earn more, they typically spend more. And when large portions of a population see their spending power increase, economic activity tends to go up. The argument is that a resulting boost in economic activity could also increase the demand for small businesses' goods and services.

Higher Employee Morale

Money can't buy happiness, according to the old adage. While that may be true, money can reduce financial stress. When employees are less worried about paying their bills, they're likely to be happier and more focused at work. Some argue that improved morale has numerous benefits for employers, too, including better customer service.

Reduced Reliance on Public Assistance

If passed, the Raise the Wage Act could elevate nearly one million people above the federal poverty line by 2025, according to the Congressional Budget Office. Proponents of the Act argue that if fewer people live below the poverty line, fewer people would need public assistance programs. Down the line, this could save small businesses money by reducing taxes that help fund these programs.

What Are the Cons of a \$15 Minimum Wage Increase?

If you're a small business owner, you know how tough the COVID-19 pandemic was on the majority of small businesses. Many businesses struggled to protect their staff's safety while keeping their businesses open. Supply chain issues choked productivity and costs on all fronts seemed to rise.

For this reason, some people say that now just isn't the right time to hit small businesses with another challenge. Opponents argue that raising the minimum wage to \$15 per hour is more difficult than ever for small businesses—and they fear that the following issues would arise.

Higher Labor Costs

One of the most significant and earliest impacts of a higher minimum wage is increased labor costs. In fact, some states would need to more than double the current pay rates for their minimum wage workers—not to mention adjusting the wages for those at higher levels. Many argue that such a steep increase in labor costs would likely result in higher prices for goods and services, negating any increase in employees' purchasing power; a reduction in employer-provided benefits; fewer hours for workers; and the automation of more jobs.

The Need to Increase Pay Across the Board

Raising pay at the minimum wage level will likely pressure companies to increase the pay for higher-paying positions as well. Hard-working, tenured employees and those with specialized skill sets understandably want their contributions and experience to be rewarded. If companies try to keep wages for their more experienced and specialized employees similar to what they pay

newer, less skilled employees, they could have trouble keeping and attracting higher level talent.

Reduced Profits

Higher labor costs can reduce profits, especially for small business owners who are less likely than large employers to pass added expenses to their customers. This means small businesses may need to make significant changes to their cost control strategies to absorb the additional costs.

Decreased Hiring

To keep higher labor costs from ballooning out of control, some small businesses may choose to hire fewer people. Not only does this decrease job opportunities, especially for low-skilled workers, but it can also increase the burden on remaining employees.

Increased Automation

As technology with built-in artificial intelligence (AI) improves and gets cheaper, more small businesses are using it to automate processes and increase productivity. If small business owners decide that labor has gotten too expensive, they'll likely lean further into automation as a tool to save money while still getting work done. For instance, some might use chatbots to automate customer service-related tasks and eliminate positions. While this could be a long-term boon to small businesses' bottom lines, it would also decrease the availability of low-skilled jobs for workers.

Increased Price Competition

Small businesses may need to increase their prices in order to cover higher labor costs. As some do, others may use the opportunity to lower their prices and attract customers, spurring price competition that could further harm small businesses.

Minimum Wage Increases By State

If passed, a new federal minimum wage rate of \$15 per hour would have markedly different effects from state to state. That's because each state's minimum wage differs based on its own state law.

In fact, three state minimum wage rates are already higher than the proposed \$15 per hour: California, Washington and Washington, D.C. The state of Massachusetts has already set \$15 as its minimum hourly pay rate. While small businesses in these locations wouldn't experience higher labor costs if the Raise the Wage Act gets passed, businesses in other states could see a huge impact on their bottom lines.

It's worth noting that not all states have their own minimum wage laws. In those cases, they're subject to the rate currently mandated by the Fair Labor Standards Act. In the 21 states that use the federal minimum wage, small businesses could see a 107% increase in labor costs. For the other 16 states, the increase would range between 6% and 51%. Use the chart ([on the original article website page](#)) to see how your small business could be affected.

**Source: <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/minimum-wage/state> (accessed January 6, 2023)*

April Ribbon Cuttings

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



World of Authors
3 Eagle Center, Ste 2, O'Fallon

Welcome and congrats!

St. Louis Oasis
801 W. State Street, O'Fallon
(Inside AgeSmart)

Welcome and congrats!



Simplifying Beauty
9 Eagle Center, Ste 7B, O'Fallon

Welcome and congrats!



Sanctuary Salon and Spa
119 W. State Street, O'Fallon

*Welcome and congrats to new owner,
Andrea Donze!*



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

8TH GRADE CAREER FAIR RECAP

The O'Fallon-Shiloh Chamber of Commerce, Junior Achievement, Scott Air Force Base STEAM Advisory Group, and the Regency Conference Center hosted its 11th Annual 8th Grade Career Exploration Fair on April 24, 2023. This is the first in person career fair since 2019. A virtual fair was hosted in 2021. 653 eighth-graders from across O'Fallon and Shiloh public and private schools attended the fair.



Chamber President/CEO Debbie Arell-Martinez tells us, "This event is truly the result of the partnership between the business community and the local schools. It was so good to be back in person this year. Last year's virtual fair was still helpful, but it wasn't as impactful as an in-person fair is. We had 63 role models covering a variety of industries to include medical, technology, and the trades. This fair gives the students access to careers they may never have heard of before – our career fair could very well be the start of a dream."

The career fair provides an excellent opportunity for students to explore careers, interview business leaders, and set goals for their career aspirations.



Dr. Cindy Doil, Scott AFB School Liaison Officer says, "The O'Fallon-Shiloh Chamber of Commerce 8th Grade Career Fair was an AMAZING event with professionals from all walks of life sharing their experiences with students who were enlightened by learning about so many varied careers! Students chose a variety of fields to examine more closely. Many professionals provided hands on experiences and engaging centers to help students learn. This event is phenomenal and connects young people with our community as they determine their desired path in life! It helps students center their lives at a critical stage of their lives as they pursue their dreams."

Pictures and video from the event will be available at OFallonChamber.com/career-fair in the coming days.



Junior Achievement is the nation's largest organization dedicated to giving young people the knowledge and skills they need to own their economic success, plan for their futures, and make smart academic and economic choices. Junior Achievement in Southwestern Illinois supports our area schools and educators by providing valuable kindergarten through high school classroom resources that are well-tested, hands-on programs taught by caring community and business volunteers. With a range of different programs, Junior Achievement teaches about concepts relating to entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and work readiness. JA's programs are correlated to the Illinois Learning Standards and Grade Level Expectations.

O'FALLON • SHILOH
CHAMBER of COMMERCE

CAREER FAIR

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MEMBER NEWS

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING EVENT SET FOR MAY 20 AT HSHS ST. ELIZABETH'S HOSPITAL



HSHS
St. Elizabeth's
Hospital

HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital is hosting an E-Recycling event for electronics on Saturday, May 20, 8 a.m. to noon. The collection vehicle will be located in the parking lot in front of the Health Center at 3 St. Elizabeth's Blvd., O'Fallon, Illinois. The hospital's Reverence for the Earth Committee invites the public to do their part to support environmental recycling efforts.

"As a Franciscan ministry, we strive to be good stewards of the Earth and proudly offer collection events such as this to the community," states Chance Beeler, manager of mission integration and spiritual care. "It is an opportunity to reduce waste and treat the planet with respect."

J&C E-Recycling will be managing the electronics recycling collection such as computer towers, computer components, laptops and wire. Other items accepted include:

Printers
Cell Phones
Electric Motors
Monitors
Floppy Drives
Keyboards, Mice
Speakers
Electronic Motors
DVD/VHS Players
Battery Backups
Modems
Computer Fans
Batteries
LCD Screens

In addition to the items above, anything with a cord will be accepted, including refrigerators, washer/dryers, dishwashers, freezers, small appliances (blenders, bread machines, hair dryers, etc.), TVs, lawnmowers, weed eaters, lawn tools and microwaves.

Please note that there will be a \$.50 per pound charge for TVs (plasma, console, projection-DLP), CRTs and monitors. For specific questions on if an item will be accepted, call J&C E-Recycling at 618-233-5009.

All donations are tax deductible. St. Elizabeth's Reverence for the Earth Committee thanks everyone for their donations to help us serve the community. Through its Franciscan ministry, HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital follows in the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals and ecology. Below are a few more simple ways that you can do the same and become environmental stewards to the earth.

- **Bag it.** When you go shopping, bring your own reusable bags. This preserves resources by cutting down on the vast number of paper and plastic bags that are discarded after a single trip.
- **Shop at your local farmers' market.** This will help support farmers in your area and decrease the miles you drive to buy food.
- **Save on water.** Drink water from the tap, instead of buying single-use bottled water, which requires much more energy to produce, store and transport. Use water filters if you are concerned about your local water supply.
- **Think before you print.** With increased access to smart phones, iPads and laptops, oftentimes a hard copy is not necessary. Switching subscriptions and bill receipts to be sent via email is another great way to lessen paper waste.

GCS CREDIT UNION ANNOUNCES REBRAND, HOLDS ELECTIONS DURING 2023 ANNUAL MEETING

GCS Credit Union recently held its 82nd Annual Meeting



Tuesday, March 21st announcing plans to rebrand this year. Chairman Jim Devine addressed the meeting attendees by saying, "This will be an exciting year! We will be rebranding the credit union as we strive to connect with our entire field of membership. This has

been a decision that the Board has taken very seriously as we are all proud of our roots and want to honor our history." Devine continued by adding, "In order for our longevity to continue, we feel we must continue to be growth minded as we provide products and services that are relevant to today's demands. While we will have a new name and look, please know that our values will not change." In addition, a new branch is under construction for GCS in Edwardsville. The new branch will serve as an expansion of products and services to the Edwardsville community, in which GCS has supported for over 20 years. That project is expected to be completed this summer.

Founded in 1941 as a source of loans and basic serving products, GCS Credit Union has always focused on its members. Through the years, this philosophy has served them well as they expanded beyond a single office in Granite City to a full-service financial institution serving 18 counties. President/ CEO Keith Burton reinforced the resiliency of GCS through its 82-year history saying, "Our longevity is a direct result of conservative growth that puts honesty, integrity, and trust first. We continue to receive top ratings from both state and federal regulators, as safety and soundness have always been a top priority. As our name changes, our values will not. We will maintain the same heart and same mission our members have come to know."

GCS was also honored for its work in youth financial literacy. Kevin Shaw, AVP Regional Management at the Illinois Credit Union League presented GCS with an honorable mention in the Dora Maxwell state award competition, first place in the Desjardins Youth Financial Education state award competition, and third place in the Desjardins Youth Financial Education national award competition. The Desjardins Award recognizes credit unions for leadership within the credit union movement on behalf of financial literacy for all ages. "In the eight years I've been doing this, this is the first time one of my credit unions has received national recognition. This truly shows the great work you all do in the community. Congratulations!" said Shaw.

Elections for Director over a two-year term were announced. Directors Nick Huniak, Kim Frantz, Ken Newton, Robert Lyles, Cecil Williams, and Barry Stuart received the votes. Officers for 2023 are: Jim Devine (Chairman), Ken Newton (Vice-Chairman), Jack Manion (Treasurer), and Kim Frantz (Secretary). Credit unions are member-owned, not-for-profit financial cooperatives that have a volunteer board of directors.

“We are proud of our 82-year history and our mission. We know change is constant, and we must adapt to our members’ needs both now and in the future. We will always stay true to our mission of serving our members. We will continue to offer products and services at competitive prices that help provide financial success in our members’ daily lives. On behalf of the Board of Directors and our employees, we thank you for your continued support, trust, and confidence in GCS Credit Union,” said Keith Burton.

**HSHS MEDICAL GROUP
WELCOMES RICKI LOAR, PHD,
APRN, HAND SURGERY**



HSHS Medical Group

HSHS Medical Group is pleased to welcome Ricki Loar, PhD, APRN, to our medical team. Ricki sees hand surgery patients at HSHS Medical Group Orthopedic & Sports Medicine - O’Fallon, located at 670 Pierce Blvd., Suite 200, in O’Fallon, Illinois.

Ricki is a skilled advanced practice registered nurse offering patient-first care alongside Hand Surgeon Andres Lerner, MD. She will provide conservative treatment of carpal tunnel syndrome, trigger finger, tendonitis, osteoarthritis and other hand conditions. Ricki earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Master of Science in Nursing at Rush University in Chicago, Illinois. She received post-master’s certificates as a family nurse practitioner and gerontological nurse practitioner from University of Illinois at Chicago in Chicago, Illinois. Ricki also has a Doctor of Philosophy in Human Resource Education from University

of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in Champaign, Illinois.

“I am very much looking forward to working in orthopedics—and especially hand surgery, because I am able to work with patients to help them reach their goals by decreasing pain and increasing function,” Ricki said. “This helps them regain important parts of their lives that they may have lost due to disability and/or pain.”

For an appointment with Ricki, please talk to your primary care physician about a referral to hand surgery or call 618-206-2094.

To learn more about Ricki and other HSHS Medical Group specialists, visit HSHSMedicalGroup.org.

IMPACT STRATEGIES ANNOUNCES NEW PRECONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT LEADERSHIP



BUILD. TRUST. NO LIMITS.

IMPACT Strategies is proud to announce new leadership in its preconstruction department. The firm has promoted Jason Toennies from Senior Estimator to Director of Estimating, and Derek Schaefer from Preconstruction Manager to Director of Preconstruction.

The promotion of these two key staff members to senior leadership positions is part of the firm’s strategic business plan for continued growth in its St. Louis and Ohio/Kentucky/Indiana (OKI) markets. IMPACT Strategies celebrated a record year in 2022 with more than \$110 million in completed projects throughout five midwestern states.

Jason Toennies holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Construction Management from Southern Illinois University–Edwardsville. Jason joined IMPACT Strategies in 2007 and brings more than 25 years of experience to his new role as Director of Estimating.

Director of Pre-Construction Derek

Schaefer has 15 years of experience in the construction industry. He graduated from the University of Central Missouri with a Bachelor of Science degree in Construction Management. He also earned the Design-Build Institute of America’s DBIA designation as a nationally certified Design-Build Professional in 2022. Derek joined IMPACT Strategies in 2013.

Toennies and Schaefer have been a part of numerous high-profile IMPACT Strategies projects, including Altair at the Heights in Richmond Heights, MO; 2200 LaSalle at Lafayette Park; several projects for BJC Health System; and numerous industrial buildings at Fenton Logistics Park.

The development and promotion of these new leaders allows for the future transition of Executive VP Mike Christ to a part-time role, expected in early 2024. Christ will remain a member of the firm’s executive leadership and will act as a mentor and coach for Toennies and Schaefer. Christ will also continue to lead IMPACT Strategies’ virtual design and construction (VDC) initiative.

IMPACT Strategies President Mark Hinrichs said, “As part of our long-term leadership planning and the continued growth of our firm, I am very excited to see Jason and Derek step into their new roles.

Each is a strong, capable leader with a track record of success – they will be instrumental in taking our already high-performing preconstruction department to new heights.”

Find more
Member News
on our website:

OFallonChamber.com

MONTHLY CALENDAR

May

10

[Downtown District Committee Meeting](#)

8:45 a.m. | O'Fallon City Hall Council Chambers

10

[Salute to Business Awards Luncheon](#)

11:30 a.m. | The Regency Conference Center

Get your tickets today!

11

[Economic Development Committee Meeting](#)

8:30 a.m. | TownePlace Suites O'Fallon

11

[Ribbon Cutting | Water Sweets Soap Company](#)

12:00 p.m. | 705 Cambridge Blvd, Ste B, O'Fallon

16

[Education Committee Meeting](#)

1:00 p.m. | O'Fallon District 90 Offices

18

[Ribbon Cutting | Chiro-Med Health Care Facilities](#)

11:30 a.m. | 1480 Green Mount Rd, Ste 300A, O'Fallon

20

[Ribbon Cutting | Vine Street Market](#)

7:45 a.m. | 212 East 1st Street, O'Fallon

22

[Executive Board Meeting](#)

10:00 a.m. | Chamber Depot

22

[Member Engagement Committee Meeting](#)

2:30 p.m. | Chamber Depot

25

[Board of Directors Meeting](#)

8:15 a.m. | O'Fallon City Hall Council Chambers

25

[Ribbon Cutting | Premier Remodeling](#)

12:00 p.m. | 502 W. State Street, O'Fallon

31

[Ribbon Cutting | Los Amigos](#)

11:00 a.m. | 950 Talon Dr, O'Fallon

Despite meeting every month, it's rare to get a photo of our full Board of Directors! Our Board changeover happens this month, so we thought it appropriate to say **THANK YOU** to our current Board and all their hard work this past year!

From front left, clockwise: Susan Schultz, Debbie Arell-Martinez, Jeff Dossett, Nathan Klitzing, Kevin Meder, Mike Williams, Dan Jackson, Kurt Schroeder, Mayor Bob Weilmuenster, Mayor Herb Roach, Donna Richter, Melissa Fanning, Jon Greenstreet, Josh Kinney, Kevin Welch, Tony Smallmon and Cindy Helmkamp.



INJURY FREE RUNNING CLINIC

Whether you are an experienced runner or just starting your training, our **FREE Injury Free Running Clinic** at **HSHS St. Elizabeth's Outpatient Therapy** can support and educate you on injury prevention and performance enhancement through a personalized program.



MONDAY, MAY 22, 5:30 P.M.

McKendree Metro Rec Plex

NO COST. RSVPS REQUIRED.



For more information
or to register scan code
or call 618-624-3668.

SALUTE TO OUR STAR INVESTORS



TWO STAR INVESTORS



HSHS Medical Group

ONE STAR INVESTORS

1st National Bank of Waterloo
i3 Broadband
Aaron Holdge Allstate
American Family Insurance
- Scott Buchtel
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
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
Gateway Solutions
GCS Credit Union
Guaranteed Rate Lending
HD Painting & Stain Co.
Heartland Bank
Hilton Garden Inn
Holland Construction Services
Home Heating and Cooling
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.
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
Premier Remodeling
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
TownePlace Suites by Marriott
U.S. Bank
Washington University Physicians
-Pediatric Specialty Care
Water Sweets Soap Company
Webster University at SAFB

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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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

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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.

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Mayor Robert Weilmuenster
Village of Shiloh

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Sheri Welch

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

This month's newsletter sponsor is:
Memorial Hospital | BJC

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

January - June 2023
SAVE THE DATES

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

Bella Milano
455 Regency Park Drive, O'Fallon
Tuesday, January 17 • 5-6:30 p.m.


APEXNETWORK.
PHYSICAL THERAPY
210 Hartman Lane, Ste 500, O'Fallon
Tuesday, March 21 • 5-6:30 p.m.

TOWNEPLACE SUITES[®]
BY MARRIOTT
445 Regency Park Drive, O'Fallon
Tuesday, June 20 • 5-6:30 p.m.

Please RSVP to 618-632-3377 or chamber@ofallonchamber.com

RESTAURANT ROULETTE

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

BOOK CLUB

	Wednesday, February 8	5:30 p.m.
	Tuesday, May 2	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