



# 27TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

**SEPTEMBER 10, 2024  
FAR OAKS GOLF CLUB  
419 OLD COLLINSVILLE RD, CASEYVILLE, IL**

**Early Bird Registration Ends: August 5, 2024**

**All Registration Ends: September 3, 2024**

**Morning Tee Time: 7:00 am  
Afternoon Tee Time: 12:30 pm**

**[ofallonchamber.com/golf2024](https://ofallonchamber.com/golf2024)**





JULY 2024

# CHAMBER TRACKS

Official Newsletter of O'Fallon-Shiloh Chamber of Commerce

## A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

DEBBIE ARELL-MARTINEZ

We are definitely in the “dog days of summer!” Could it get any hotter?!

**Looking Ahead:** We're excited to announce our partnership with OTHS for the 2nd Annual OTHS Job Fair on August 20th. If you have any positions that can be filled by high school students during the school year, this event is a must-attend! Last year, we had a fantastic turnout from both employers and potential employees, resulting in over 40 positions being filled. This job fair is a wonderful opportunity to introduce our youth to the workforce, provide them with valuable experience, and support our members' hiring needs.

**Upcoming Event:** Planning for our September 10th golf tournament is in full swing. Our tournament features both a morning and an afternoon session, and we've already filled over half the team slots for the afternoon. With over 200 golfers expected throughout the day, this event is a prime opportunity to promote your business. We encourage you to consider sponsorship or playing in the tournament. Remember, this is our primary fundraiser for the Chamber, so your support is greatly appreciated.

*-Debbie*



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# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

## JUNE NEW MEMBERS

### Caring Transitions of Greater Edwardsville

Bryan Smith  
706 W. Hillview Avenue  
Greenville, IL 62246  
[bsmith@caringtransitions.com](mailto:bsmith@caringtransitions.com)  
[caringtransitionsofgreateredwardsville.com](http://caringtransitionsofgreateredwardsville.com)  
*Referred by Jennifer Divac*  
(Seniors)

### SCS Engineers

Andrew Adams  
(314) 629-9941  
[aadams@scsengineers.com](mailto:aadams@scsengineers.com)  
[www.scsengineers.com](http://www.scsengineers.com)  
*Referred by Liz Ashley*  
(Engineering)

### Sunglow Counseling

Kat Huang  
7 Eagle Center, Ste 2  
O'Fallon, IL 62269  
(844) 850-4569  
[admin@SunGlowCounseling.com](mailto:admin@SunGlowCounseling.com)  
[www.sunglowcounseling.com](http://www.sunglowcounseling.com)



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Featured Business Ad \$75  
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1/2 Page Ad \$35  
1/4 Page Ad \$25

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New Episodes Every Friday!

The618now.podbean.com

# MEMBER RENEWALS

## STAR INVESTORS

- Clinton Manor Living Center

## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

- Advanced Ankle and Foot Surgeons, LLC
- Baughman & Associates
- Baysinger Architects
- Benjamin F. Edwards and Company, Inc.
- Beth Ortega RE/MAX Preferred
- Dairy Queen Grill & Chill O'Fallon
- Hollywood Hair
- Horner & Shifrin
- House Master Home Inspections
- I Scream U Scream\*
- I3 Broadband

- Jazzy Creations by Freda, LLC
- Ken Diel
- Lucky Dog Barks and Recreation
- Morning Glory Homecare LLC
- PrimeLending
- Red Door Realty
- RTI Barge Management\*
- Southern Illinois Builders Association
- Super 8 by Wyndham O'Fallon
- Teen Court Foundation
- Thip's Thai Cuisine
- Thrivent Financial
- Vision Care Associates
- World of Authors, LLC

*\*Downtown District Members*



FOR ALL THAT YOU DO TO  
SUPPORT THE CHAMBER AND OUR COMMUNITY!

## MEET YOUR CHAMBER STAFF



**Debbie Arnall-Martinez**  
President/CEO



**Doris Obernuefemann**  
Operations Manager



**Jonathan Simmons**  
Marketing &  
Communications Manager



**Jessica Lotz**  
Leadership &  
Development Coordinator



**Johnnie Hodges**  
Membership Coordinator





# JOB FAIR

## Do you have jobs for High School Students?

Sign up for our OTHS job fair and find the help you need!!

- Chamber Member Businesses Only
- Must have jobs for high school students
- Can hire on the spot
- More details on event page.
- Questions? Email [director@ofallonchamber.com](mailto:director@ofallonchamber.com)

**20  
August**

Setup

**5 pm**

Doors Open

**6 pm - 8pm**

 OTHS  
600 S Smiley St, O'Fallon, IL 62269

 \$25

[OFALLONCHAMBER.COM/JOBFAIR](http://OFALLONCHAMBER.COM/JOBFAIR)



# Pardon our Progress

We are still open during our outpatient radiology project.



HSHS  
St. Elizabeth's  
Convenient Care



Common cold, seasonal allergies or the flu?

We are conveniently here for you.

1512 N. Green Mount Rd., O'Fallon | Open 7 days a week, 8 a.m.-7 p.m. No appointments necessary.



A Serra Honda Exclusive Service!

**MOBILE MECHANIC**  
WE COME TO YOU FOR BASIC SERVICE WORK!

**OUR SERVICES INCLUDE:**

- ✓ Oil Change
- ✓ Tire Rotation
- ✓ Change Air Filters
- ✓ Wiper Blade Replacements
- ✓ Battery Replacement
- ✓ Rear Differential Fluid

Call 833-GO-SERRA or Visit [833GoSerra.com](http://833GoSerra.com) to schedule your appointment!

At No Extra Charge To You!





# ADVERTISE WITH US!

## DIGITAL LED BILLBOARD ADS

### 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!

*Digital LED | 14x49' | Over 130,000 vehicles daily*

52 WEEKS  
\$1,375

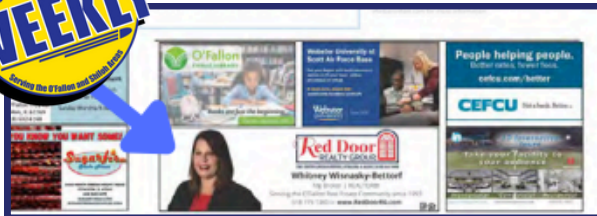
32 WEEKS  
\$925

20 WEEKS  
\$625



Have more questions?  
Reach out to the Chamber!

**CLAIM YOUR SPOT**



## O'FALLON WEEKLY ADS

Get your ad on the Chamber's EXCLUSIVE O'Fallon Weekly page! Every first Wednesday of the month, the O'Fallon Weekly highlights what's happening around town. Your ad supports the Chamber and this local publication!

**CLAIM YOUR SPOT**



\$29/MO  
\$350/YEAR

RESERVE  
NOW!

SPOTS ARE  
LIMITED!

## PODCAST SPONSORSHIP

The 618 Podcast is a weekly production of the O'Fallon-Shiloh Chamber of Commerce and the O'Fallon Weekly that highlights what's happening in the area! With a total of over **30,000 listeners and growing**, this is THE place you'll want to advertise.



\$200/TWO  
WEEKS

20-SECOND  
SPOT

LET US TALK  
ABOUT YOUR  
BUSINESS!

**CLAIM YOUR SPOT**





You deserve extraordinary care, close to home.

Our experienced doctors, nurses, and caregivers are right in your community providing routine treatments and life-changing care. We're here for you and your family—every day—because you deserve extraordinary care.

Find care at: [MemHosp.org](http://MemHosp.org)

Memorial Hospital  
We are BJC HealthCare.

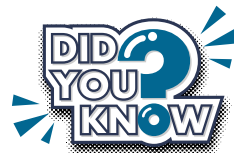


**SCHEDULED EVENTS FOR FRI. 8/9 & SAT. 8/10**  
 PRIVATE VETERAN-ONLY ACTIVITIES FRI. EVENING (8/9) & SAT. MORNING 8/10  
 FREE CONCERT FEATURING VETERAN SONGS SAT. NIGHT 8/10 (OPEN TO THE PUBLIC)



For more info,  
Call 618-632-1022 x 119

Freedom Sings USA is a VA-certified nonprofit providing music arts therapy for Vets and their families.



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

Click below to view the June and July newsletters:





# EVENT SPOTLIGHT

## MILITARY AFFAIRS

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### SCOTT AFB MILITARY SPOUSE APPRECIATION EVENT | MAY 10

The Chamber participated by sharing our map and Downtown District event list, along with a magnet featuring a QR code linking to military family resources. We distributed over \$2,000 in restaurant gift cards to 100 spouses, ranging from \$5 to \$20. Thanks to our restaurant donors, sponsoring members, and dedicated committee members for their support in organizing and distributing the gift cards.

**\$2K** 

RESTAURANT GIFT CARDS

**100+** 

PRIZE RECIPIENTS

**1200** 

SOCIAL MEDIA  
POST REACH

**300+** 

SOCIAL MEDIA  
ENGAGEMENTS

**YOUR MEMBERSHIP AT WORK!**

CHAMBER WEBSITE	ADDRESS AND PHONE	MOST RECENT ANNUAL BUDGET ↓	PRIOR YEAR'S ANNUAL BUDGET	# CHAMBER MEMBERS ①	MEMBER DUES	TOP LOCAL EXECUTIVE	CHAMBER PRESIDENT OR CHAIR
1 GREATER ST. LOUIS INC. greaterstlinc.com	① 1 Metropolitan Square #1300 St. Louis, MO 63102 314-231-5555	\$26.5 million	\$20.8 million	1,500	\$100—\$100,000 ②	Jason Hall	Andrew Taylor
2 WASHINGTON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE washmo.org	② 323 W. Main St. Washington, MO 63090 636-239-2715	\$4.67 million	\$3.76 million	576	\$110—\$680	Jennifer Gieske	Steve Strubberg
3 ST. CHARLES REGIONAL CHAMBER stcharlesregionalchamber.com	③ 5988 Mid Rivers Mall Dr. St. Charles, MO 63304 636-946-0633	\$781,022	\$704,891	1,049			
4 CHESTERFIELD REGIONAL CHAMBER chesterfieldmochamber.com	④ 101 Chesterfield Business Pkwy. Chesterfield, MO 63005 636-532-3399	\$685,000	\$650,000	765			
5 GREATER BELLEVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE bellevillechamber.org	⑤ 216 E. A St. Belleville, IL 62220 618-233-2015	\$603,764	\$551,800	525	\$		
6 HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE METRO ST. LOUIS hccstl.com	⑥ 20 S. Sarah St. St. Louis, MO 63108 314-664-4432	\$550,000	\$485,000	526			
7 KIRKWOOD-DES PERES AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE kirkwoodesperes.com	⑦ 366 S. Kirkwood Rd. St. Louis, MO 63122 314-821-4161	\$414,947	\$419,712	553	\$265—\$1,825	Chris Ley	Brandon Miller
8 O'FALLON-SHILOH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ofallonchamber.com	⑧ 115 S. 1st St. P.O. Box 311 O'Fallon, IL 62450 618-632-3377	\$395,913	\$335,376	557	\$100-\$4,000	Debbie Arell-Martinez	Nathan Klitzing
9 CLAYTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE claytoncommerce.com	⑨ 225 S. Meramec Ave. #300 St. Louis, MO 63105 314-726-3033	\$395,000	\$367,000	300	\$425—\$1,750	Ellen Gale	Dan Freeland





# JUNE RIBBON CUTTINGS



## Seasons of Spice

121 East State Street, O'Fallon, IL

## The Roofing Guys

1392 Frontage Rd, O'Fallon, IL



*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!*

[CHECK OUT MORE](#)





# meet the ambassadors!

## This month, we continue introducing our Chamber Ambassadors!

Ambassadors serve as the face of the Chamber in the community. They help to welcome new members and support events throughout the year. Stay tuned next month to meet the rest of our Ambassadors!



**KE'IRA LEWIS**

Owner,  
618 Business & Event Center

**Hometown:** Chicago, IL/Port Arthur, TX

### How has your involvement with the Chamber influenced your business or professional growth?

My involvement as a Chamber Ambassador has influenced the importance of supporting others. I've always been intentional about offering my circle support that they're needing, according to the season of life that they're in. Support as a business owner is a world within itself. The lack of could break your company. I find delight in spreading the word about the products and services of our community's local businesses.

### What advice would you offer to newcomers looking to make the most out of their Chamber membership?

The advice that I would offer a newcomer, would be to practice intentionality with your membership: be intentional about networking with other members, be intentional about participating in activities, be intentional about attending events (as your schedule allow), be intentional about learning all that you can.



**KEN HUTCHENS**

Lead Pastor,  
The Shiloh Church

**Hometown:** Fairfax, OK

### In your opinion, what sets our Chamber apart from others?

Ministry is about relationships -- with God and people. I love the relational aspect of our O'Fallon/Shiloh Chamber. It has provided an opportunity for me to meet people in a multitude of businesses, occupations, and roles. I have also learned from various events about others I did not meet yet. Chamber has such a variety of gatherings and interactions that it has helped me to learn about the community, provided valuable links to services and needs of the church I serve, and been a sheer pleasure to interact with so many. I especially like our Business After Hours and Restaurant Roulette events. They allow a deeper interaction with one another that can truly connect people.

### Outside of your business or profession, what do you enjoy most about our local community?

Shiloh Church is the seventh church I have served as pastor. My first two churches were student pastorates in Indiana and Georgia. In Illinois I started west of Chicago and gradually worked my way south. I love this church and this area for numerous reasons. It is near the city but has a smaller town community feel. It is full of people intent on improving life for themselves and their family. It has the flavor of devotion to duty and responsibility that a military community exudes. I have been part of the community since 2016 and hope to remain a part of it for long into the future. The people of Shiloh, O'Fallon, Belleville and surrounding communities are worth getting to know and Chamber allows me to do just that.





**LISA VORCE**  
Financial Advisor,  
Thrivent

**Hometown:** O'Fallon, IL

**Are there any particular Chamber events or initiatives you're particularly excited about?**

I love to attend our business over breakfast and the annual golf tournament. The Business Over Breakfast meeting is every other month, has engaging speakers and an opportunity to speak to new and old community members. The golf tournament is one of the biggest fundraising events for the chamber and is filled with lots of great golf, area members driving golf carts around with water and beer, food, hole sponsors and great food. It is well organized and benefits a great cause!

**What do you enjoy most about being a Chamber Ambassador?**

I enjoy being a chamber ambassador because I like to connect people together. I have always liked meeting new people and ambassadors work hard to intentionally connect new people to others in our community to grow the business network here in O'Fallon/Shiloh.



**LINDSAY PORZEINSKI**  
Owner,  
Home Heating and Cooling

**Hometown:** O'Fallon, IL

**How has your involvement with the Chamber influenced your business or professional growth?**

Being involved with the Chamber for more than 15 years has helped me grow tremendously as a business leader in the community. It has allowed me to grow my network and come out of my shell as a young business professional. I joined the Chamber with a prior employer who helped me understand the importance of supporting our local community and small business owners. Because of this involvement, I was able to start my own business. I have no doubt the support of the Chamber and the network I have built has helped our business succeed.

**Are there any particular Chamber events or initiatives you're particularly excited about?**

My favorite Chamber events are the Ribbon Cuttings. I love to share the excitement of a new business opening their doors in such a supportive community.



**RENEE LA BRUYERE**  
Sr. Business Development  
Manager, Horner & Shifrin, Inc.

**Hometown:** Millstadt, IL

**What do you enjoy most about being a Chamber Ambassador?**

I'm proud to be an Ambassador for the O'Fallon Shiloh Chamber. For me, it's a sense of pride representing such a fantastic chamber. I enjoy connecting chamber members and networking with fellow chamber members.

**What advice would you offer to newcomers looking to make the most out of their Chamber membership?**

For new chamber members, to get the most out of your membership, be active. Show up to events, join a committee or two, just participate. Bring lots of business cards to events.



**NATHAN PARCHMAN**  
Vice President,  
The Farmers and Merchants  
National Bank

**Hometown:** Hickory, KY

**In your opinion, what sets our Chamber apart from others?**

The overall friendliness of the O'Fallon-Shiloh Chamber is unmatched in the area from my experience.

**Outside of your business or profession, what do you enjoy most about our local community?**

I enjoy the thriving downtown in O'Fallon! It reminds me of stories my parents would tell me about when they'd go get ice cream or hang out on the old town square. It's the place everyone wants to be and the businesses are thriving because of the work done by the Chamber, Downtown District, and City of O'Fallon. It's wonderful to see the historic buildings being brought to full life!



# EVENT TAKEWAYS

## Restaurant Roulette



Our June 13th Restaurant Roulette had a smaller turnout than usual, but that didn't stop the incredible networking and connections. This event guarantees impactful interactions for all attendees, regardless of the group size. Whether we have 12 or 24 participants, everyone will find it meaningful. The charm of this event lies in the intimate group settings and the opportunity to explore different restaurants.



If you missed the June event, don't worry! **Our next Restaurant Roulette is on August 8th.** If you're new to this event, here's how it works: you sign up, and the day before the event, we'll match you with a group and assign you to a restaurant. The more groups we have, the more restaurants we visit. You'll learn your restaurant assignment the day before and your lunch companions when you show up to lunch! It's a win-win for everyone!

In June, we visited **Sweet Katie Bee's Sustainable Bakery-Café** and **The Hut Sports Bar**. Where will we go in August? [Sign up to find out!](#)

## Business After Hours

*Hosted by Addington Place of Shiloh*



**SEE MORE OF THE EVENT HERE!**



# MEMBER NEWS

## METRO EAST ATTORNEY AWARDED FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS



Patrick B. Mathis, a founding shareholder at Mathis, Marifian & Richter, Ltd., was recently honored as the recipient of the Outstanding Achievement in Estate Planning Award presented by the Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education (IICLE®). The annual award was announced at the IICLE® Estate Planning Short Course 2024 Seminar held on June 6, 2024 in Champaign, Illinois.

The Outstanding Achievement in Estate Planning Award by IICLE® recognizes the distinguished contributions and achievements of an Illinois attorney who embodies professionalism, innovation, and commitment within estate planning. This accolade symbolizes the significant influence Mathis has had in protecting and upholding the legacies of individuals, families, and communities for over four decades.

The award is bestowed annually upon an Illinois attorney who demonstrates exceptional proficiency in estate law, taxation, wealth preservation, and asset distribution. Their ability to create personalized estate plans that align with their clients' distinct needs and objectives distinguishes them as a trailblazer in the legal profession. Moreover, the recipient has played a vital role in advancing the field of estate planning in Illinois and beyond through contributions such as impactful publications, educational seminars, legislative advocacy, or other initiatives aimed at enriching the landscape of estate planning practice.

## HOSPITAL SISTERS HEALTH SYSTEM INTRODUCES AN UPFRONT TUITION COVERAGE PROGRAM FOR ALL FULL- AND PART-TIME COLLEAGUES



Hospital Sisters Health System (HSHS) has announced a new upfront tuition program for employees. [Resources & Education for the Advancement of Colleagues \(REACH\)](#). HSHS, a multi-institutional healthcare system serving patients throughout Illinois and Wisconsin, will cover up to \$4,000 in tuition annually for its 11,000+ employees, who are eligible to participate from day one of employment.

[REACH](#) allows employees to learn in-demand skills and gain career advancement without the burden of upfront tuition costs. The program will offer 1000+ courses towards earning clinical certificates, associate, bachelor's and graduate degrees, skills certificates and high school diplomas to help full- and part-time employees pursue educational goals and expand their opportunities within the company.

"Through REACH, we are advancing the future of healthcare by investing in the career and academic dreams of our colleagues," stated Tom Ahr, Senior Vice President, Chief Human Resources Officer at HSHS. "We are proud to add this program to our many other workforce development offerings in order to remove barriers to education for our colleagues and empower them to achieve their full potential."

[REACH](#) was developed in partnership with [InStride](#), a premier workforce education solutions provider that has helped leading companies achieve 90% employee retention rates for participating employees and a threefold return on investment in direct-bill education programs – a 75% efficiency improvement over standard tuition reimbursement.

By providing its workforce with a wide variety of career-aligned educational opportunities, HSHS deepens its commitment to both employee wellness and high-quality patient care that centers on the whole person.

"Hospital Sisters Health System has a clear vision about what it takes to build a workforce that is better able to deliver exceptional patient care both now and in the future," said Craig Maloney, CEO of InStride. "We couldn't be more proud to support their efforts."

For more information about careers HSHS, visit [Hospital Sisters Health System Careers](#).

## FIREWORKS OVER O'FALLON

The Annual Fireworks Over O'Fallon will be held on Wednesday, July 3, 2023, at dusk (approximately 8:30 p.m.). The fireworks will be launched near the west entrance of the O'Fallon Family Sports Park.

"A few years ago, we brought back fireworks for the first time in thirty years. Each year, we will continue to make them bigger and better!" said Mayor Herb Roach. "I hope that all of you will join us in celebrating the holiday and enjoying the community."

Spectators are asked to park only in designated parking areas. There will be no parking in the grass or side of roadways in the Sports Park. Once all the parking spots are filled, no other vehicles will be allowed in the Sports Park. People may still access the park on foot and watch the fireworks from grass areas. The turf fields and baseball restrooms will be closed. Restrooms near the Splash Pad and north side of the park will be open.

There will also be parking restrictions on the north side of W. Nixon and W. Madison.

Parking will be prohibited on Venita Drive and Taylor Road. Venita Drive and the west entrance of the Family Sports Park will be closed to traffic approximately five minutes before the firework show begins and reopened immediately following the completion of the show. At the end of the show, signs and police officers will direct vehicles towards either the East or West exit of the Sports Park (depending on where you parked).

Please be patient and expect delays leaving the Sports Park. Vendors that are interested in selling merchandise at the Sports Park must receive approval from O'Fallon Parks and Recreation prior to the event. To inquire, contact the O'Fallon Parks & Recreation Department at 618-624-0139.

Over the past several years, we have seen a sharp increase in the number of residents setting off illegal fireworks in the city limits. These illegal fireworks have greatly increased in size and often resemble those from commercial fireworks displays. Illegal fireworks can cause serious burn and eye injuries as well as property damage. Each of these mortar type fireworks shoot projectiles that travel hundreds of feet into the air and must come down at some point, frequently on the roofs and property of others in the neighborhood. In addition, the loud noises of these large fireworks are a nuisance to many of our residents.

The O'Fallon Police Department will be enforcing city and state laws regarding fireworks. The focus will be on large fireworks displays and officers will be issuing citations when probable cause exists. Over the Fourth of July Holiday, additional officers will be brought in to supplement the regular patrol crews to decrease response times to fireworks complaints.

Do you have member news you'd like to share? Send it our way!

[SUBMIT PRESS RELEASE](#)

[VIEW ALL NEWS](#)

# BUSINESS TRACK INSIGHTS

## 3 Ways to Offer Affordable Child Care Benefits For Your Employees

by Gene Marks | *The Hartford*

A recent study released by a small business association underscores a growing problem for business owners: Child care issues are impacting their ability to grow and retain good talent.

In fact, 59% of respondents to the study said that lack of access to affordable child care is hindering their business growth; 56% reported that their own childcare issues have forced them to take “substantial time” away from their companies. Another study found that almost one in five mothers were forced to change jobs or leave the workforce in the past year, often due to lack of child care.



# 59%

of small businesses said that lack of access to affordable childcare is hindering their business growth.

Source: <https://smallbusinessmajority.org/our-research/workforce/opinion-poll-small-businesses-support-policy-solutions-address-our-nation-s-childcare-challenges>

As business owners, we need to respond to this issue. Many of our employees come from families with two working parents. People don't just need time off to visit schools and take their kids to the doctor. They also need financial help to pay for day care, summer camps and other activities, especially as some school systems—most recently Pennsylvania as well as many other states—are passing or considering legislation to offer four-day school weeks in order to attract more teachers.

Helping working parents also pays off: A Care.com survey of human resources leaders found that offering childcare benefits has a positive influence on productivity and boosts recruitment and retention.

What can we do to support our employees who are dealing with significant childcare costs? There are three strategies that you should consider, all which provide help from the federal government.

### 1. Reimburse for childcare expenses.

The first is reimbursing for childcare expenses. The IRS allows you to reimburse an employee for up to \$5,000 per year to help pay for qualified childcare expenses, which includes preschool, summer day camp and after-school programs. To do this, you'd need to start a formal plan that's available to all your employees (not just yourself and family members). From there, decide how much you'll reimburse each year—it doesn't have to be the full \$5,000. You get a deduction for the reimbursement up to that amount, and the employee doesn't get taxed.

### 2. Build your own childcare facility.

Depending on your resources, you may want to consider providing your own childcare facility, or paying for access to an existing one. Thanks to the Employer-Provided Childcare Tax Credit, which was established in 2001, you can get up to a \$150,000 annual credit against the taxes you owe to help offset the costs of building and operating your own childcare facility or paying for access to another facility.



To take advantage of this credit, you can claim 25% of your expenses for providing onsite child care or contracting with a qualified offsite childcare facility. This includes the costs of acquiring, constructing, rehabilitating or expanding any property used as a qualified childcare facility. You then need to provide training for employees, scholarship programs for children, or offer higher salaries for advanced childcare professionals.

I know that this might sound like a big effort, but some companies partner together to do this and share costs. Another alternative is contracting with a qualified facility. You can also claim 10% of your expenses if you contract with a resource and referral service that helps employees find child care.

### 3. Educate employees on tax credits and other benefits.

If an employee has qualified childcare expenses (i.e. day care, babysitters, after-school programs, day camps) beyond what you're reimbursing or providing through a facility, they can also take advantage of the independent childcare tax credit. This credit can be used to offset the taxes they owe.

But have you dug deeper into the credit calculation? Hold on to your seat.

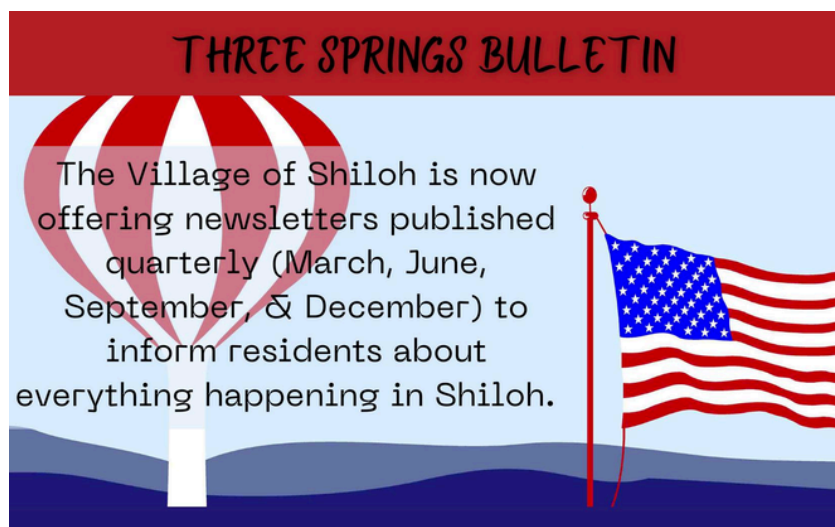
You'll see what I mean when you take a look at Form 8812, which taxpayers must complete in order to claim the credit. There are numerous eligibility requirements and income limitations that make for a pretty complex calculation. Some legislators are pushing for an expansion of the credit to cover more families, which is great, but will create more questions and add complexity.

So how can you help your employees? You can educate them.

Consider paying for a tax professional or certified public accountant to consult and teach employees who may be eligible on how to utilize the tax credit. I have some clients that pay their accountants to do this and their employees are grateful for the added help.

Healthcare, retirement and flexible work arrangements (including vacation) lead the list of the most requested employee benefits. But childcare benefits are also growing in popularity. In these times of tight labor, the strategies above can help you provide childcare benefits to your people, which in turn will lead to a more productive, loyal and—hopefully—expanding workforce.

*Next steps: Want more small business tips? [Sign up for the Small Biz Ahead newsletter today.](#)*



[VIEW SUMMER NEWSLETTER](#)



# 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**  
**\$1,375**

**32 weeks**  
**\$925**

**20 weeks**  
**\$625**

**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 | \$1,375       32 WEEKS | \$925       20 WEEKS | \$625
- I WOULD LIKE MORE THAN ONE AD \_\_\_\_\_       I WOULD LIKE THE CHAMBER TO DESIGN MY AD | \$100

*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 \$100.
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.



# MONTHLY CALENDAR



10.....● [Downtown District Meeting](#)  
8:45 a.m. | City Hall Council Chambers

10.....● [Ribbon Cutting - Three Sisters Crafts & Gifts - 25 years Celebration!](#)  
11:30 a.m. | 129 East State Street, O'Fallon

11.....● [Downtown District Nights](#)  
5:00 p.m. | 116 E 1st St, O'Fallon

27.....● [Downtown Wizard's Birthday](#)  
12:00 p.m. | 116 E 1st St, O'Fallon



## ASK US ABOUT DEMENTIA LIVE®

Dementia Live® is a high-impact, dementia simulation experience that immerses participants in life with dementia, resulting in a deeper understanding of what it's like to live with cognitive impairment and sensory change.

[www.hospice.org](http://www.hospice.org) | 618-222-5905 | 618-997-3030



Hospice of Southern Illinois  
**Continuing Education Series**

**NO-COST CE WEBINARS**

-  **Tues, June 18th • 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.**  
Thinking Outside the Doghouse: Animal Assisted Interventions -  
Cyndie Kieffer - LCSW CPPAAPT-I CAS CCTP
-  **Tues, July 16th • 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.**  
Customizing Medications for End of Life Care  
Harry Zollars, PharmD  
Maryville Pharmacy
-  **Tues, August 20th • 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.**  
Home Safety... Let's Take a Closer Look -  
Cindy Hardin-Weiss & Christina Hardin-Weiss  
Co-Founders of Adaptive Equipment Corner

**Register Today**

[www.hospice.org/events](http://www.hospice.org/events)  
Leah Godsey • 618-222-5905  
[lgodsey@hospice.org](mailto:lgodsey@hospice.org)





upcoming  
events

## AUGUST

### 8.08 | Restaurant Roulette

Sign up to join us for lunch on the appointed date/time. We'll use our virtual roulette wheel to determine where you eat and who you eat with!

You'll find out who your lunch partners are (3-5 other chamber members) when you show up to eat.

This is a way to support local restaurants and get a chance to network!

[REGISTER NOW](#)

### 8.20 | OTHS JOB FAIR

This Job Fair, in collaboration with O'Fallon Township High School, is meant for businesses that have jobs suitable for high school students!

These jobs can be part-time, occasional, short-term, and you are welcome to hire on the spot if you see fit!

Think outside of the box for this job fair and help a student help you!

[REGISTER NOW](#)

### 8.23 | Business Over Breakfast (BOB)

Business Over Breakfast is a great way to start the day. Members mix and mingle while enjoying a free, casual breakfast. Typically breakfast is pastries, bagels, juice, and coffee. The event starts at 8:00 a.m. and is typically held at the O'Fallon Public Safety Building.

If you would like to schedule a "Business Intro" presentation, contact the Chamber by email or by calling 618-632-3377.

Visitors are welcome to come and check us out. Please call the Chamber to let us know you plan to attend.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

STAY CONNECTED WITH US THROUGH OUR WEBSITE AND ON SOCIAL MEDIA FOR MORE DETAILS ON ALL EVENTS! BE SURE TO CHECK THE EVENTS CALENDAR OFTEN AND REGISTER FOR EVENTS YOU'RE INTERESTED IN.

 [OfallonChamber.com](http://OfallonChamber.com)

 [Facebook.com/OfallonShilohChamber](https://Facebook.com/OfallonShilohChamber)



# SALUTE TO OUR PREMIUM MEMBERS

## CHAIRMAN'S CIRCLE

O'FALLON-SHILOH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



## CHAMBER CHAMPION

O'FALLON-SHILOH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



## STAR INVESTORS

O'FALLON-SHILOH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

1st National Bank of Waterloo  
 American Family Insurance- Scott Buchtel  
 Associated Bank  
 Auffenberg Dealer Group  
 Bank of Belleville  
 Bank of O'Fallon  
 BOS Metro East Banking Center  
 Busey Bank  
 C&C Sports  
 Caliber Cleaning  
 Cambridge Capital Management, LLC  
 Cambridge House O'Fallon  
 Care Access  
 Carrollton Bank  
 Catholic Community Credit Union CEFCU  
 Central Bank  
 Clete's, Inc.  
 Clinton Manor Living Center  
 Commerce Bank  
 Country Estate Kennel

CSL Plasma  
 Drury Inn & Suites  
 Farmers & Merchants National Bank  
 FCB Banks  
 First Bank OFallon  
 First Bankers Trust Company  
 First Community Credit Union  
 Gateway Metro Federal Credit Union  
 Gateway Solutions  
 HD Painting & Stain Co.  
 Heartland Bank and Trust Company  
 Hilton Garden Inn  
 Holland Construction Services  
 Jack Schmitt Chevrolet of O'Fallon  
 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.  
 Mathis, Marifian & Richter, Ltd.  
 Merrill Lynch | Woody Gray

Mid America Oral Surgery Center  
 Morrison Plumbing Heating & Air  
 O'Fallon Shiloh Towing  
 OST Container/Rental  
 Regency Manor  
 Regions Bank  
 Revity Credit Union  
 Sandberg Phoenix  
 Schaefer Auto Body Centers  
 Scott Credit Union  
 Scott Family Housing  
 Sigman Heating and Air Conditioning  
 Spectra Graphics  
 Taylor Roofing  
 The Regency Conference Center  
 The Rehabilitation Institute of Southern IL  
 Together Credit Union  
 TownePlace Suites by Marriott  
 United Healthcare

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

Nathan Klitzing, Board Chair  
Cambridge Capital Management

Kevin Welch, Vice Chair  
1st National Bank of Waterloo

Dan Jackson, Treasurer  
Carrollton Bank

Jeff Dossett, Immediate Past Chair  
BJC Memorial Hospital

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## 2024-2025 BOARD MEMBERS

John Eichenlaub  
BARBERMURPHY Group

Donna Richter  
Southern Illinois Builders Assoc.

Ex-Officio

Melissa Fanning  
United Way of Greater St. Louis

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

Mayor Herb Roach  
City of O'Fallon

Jon Greenstreet  
Bike Surgeon

Susan Schultz  
Holland Construction

Mayor Robert Weilmuenster  
Village of Shiloh

Cassidy Hoelscher  
The Rehabilitation Institute of  
Southern Illinois

Pat Mandeville  
Bank of Springfield

Lt. Nick Stewart | Lead In  
O'Fallon Police Department

Chris Klay  
HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital

Mike Williams  
Serra Honda

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## CHAMBER AMBASSADORS

Don Barkley

Ken Hutchens  
Shiloh United Methodist Church

Lindsay Porzeinski  
Home Heating & Cooling

Debbie Brauer

Amy Kempfer  
Associated Bank

Delisa Richardson  
Z. D. Richardson Notary Services

Alissa Fuhrmann  
McKendree University

Reneé La Bruyere  
Horner & Shiffrin

Dave Snyder  
Rotary Club of O'Fallon /Emeritus

John Grissom  
Berkshire Hathaway

Nathan Parchman  
Farmers & Merchants National  
Bank

Lisa Vorce  
Thrivent Financial - Lisa Vorce

Jaclyn Gross  
TownePlace Suites by Marriott

Ke'ira Lewis  
Etc. Event Planning & Marketing

Justin Ward  
1st National Bank of Waterloo

Cindy Hill  
Home Instead

Erik Huber  
Bank of Springfield

Sheri Welch



July – December 2024  
**SAVE THE DATES**

**BUSINESS AFTER HOURS (BAH)**

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ATTENDANCE PRIZE DRAWINGS ARE AT 6 P.M.



301 South Lincoln Avenue, O'Fallon  
Tuesday, September 24 • 5:00–6:30 p.m.



618 Business and Event Center  
Fairview Heights  
Tuesday, November 19 • 5:00–6:30 p.m.

Please RSVP to 618-632-3377 or [chamber@ofallonchamber.com](mailto:chamber@ofallonchamber.com)

**RESTAURANT ROULETTE**

Thursday, August 8 11:30 a.m.  
Thursday, October 10 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!

**SPEED NETWORKING**

Thursday, October 3 9:00 a.m.

Location: The Hett • 400 N Alton Street, Lebanon

Speed Networking with Mckendree University Business Students

**BUSINESS OVER BREAKFAST (BOB)**

Friday, August 23 8:00 a.m.



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

**BE OUR NEWSLETTER SPONSOR!**

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



[www.OFallonChamber.com](http://www.OFallonChamber.com) P.O. Box 371, O'Fallon, IL 62269

Additional events you might be interested in attending

**ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT**

Tuesday, Sep 10 ♦ Far Oaks • AM & PM Sessions

**MAXIMIZE YOUR BENEFITS**

Tuesday, October 29 • 8:30 a.m.

Chamber Depot ♦ 116 East First Street, O'Fallon

**MEET THE MUNICIPALITIES**

Annual Luncheon

Thursday, November 7 • 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Klucker Hall ♦ 14 Park Drive, Shiloh



Dates/times are subject to change.

Please pay attention to weekly E-news for updated information.

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O'Fallon, IL 62269

ADDRESS SERVICES CORRECTED

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