



APRIL 2025

# CHAMBER TRACKS

Official Newsletter of O'Fallon-Shiloh Chamber of Commerce

## A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

DEBBIE ARELL-MARTINEZ

Spring has officially sprung, and here at the O'Fallon-Shiloh Chamber, that means one thing: **ribbon cutting season is in full swing!** While April might not be our busiest month ever in ribbon-cutting history, we're excited to celebrate four grand openings and look ahead to a packed summer schedule.

Ever wondered what makes a ribbon cutting different from a grand opening? Here's the scoop:

- **Ribbon Cutting:** This ceremonial act symbolizes the official opening of a business, facility, or event. It's often more formal, with local officials, business leaders, and special guests wielding the scissors. The ribbon cutting marks that definitive "we've arrived!" moment.
- **Grand Opening:** A grand opening takes celebration to the next level. It's typically a broader, public event with entertainment, promotions, and activities designed to build buzz and attract customers. Think of it as a full-on party, often with the ribbon cutting as a highlight.

While ribbon cuttings are often intimate and focused on recognizing those who've contributed to a business's success, grand openings are about rolling out the welcome mat for the community. Both are exciting milestones, so why not have both?

Here at the O'Fallon-Shiloh Chamber, we're proud to average 30 ribbon cuttings a year, focusing on our valued members. These events aren't just about cutting ribbons—they're about cutting through challenges to celebrate success.

We also ensure every member business gets the spotlight, even those without storefronts. Our Business Over Breakfast gatherings give these businesses their time to shine.

So, whether it's ribbon cutting scissors or grand opening streamers, we're here to help businesses make their mark. Let's keep the celebrations rolling all year long! We are always excited to invite anyone and everyone to join us at ribbon cutting events. They are open celebrations, and your presence would mean the world to the host business!

*-Debbie*



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# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

## MARCH NEW MEMBERS

### Alexander Plumbing & Remodeling LLC

Josh Davis  
702 Donna Dr.  
O'Fallon, IL 62269  
618-227-4320  
[info@aplumbingllc.com](mailto:info@aplumbingllc.com)  
<http://www.aplumbingllc.com>  
(Home Improvement & Services)

### Creation Kids Academy

Melinda Milliagan  
1032 Hartman Lane  
O'Fallon, IL 62269  
618-206-8435  
[melinda@creationkidsacademy.com](mailto:melinda@creationkidsacademy.com)  
(Daycare/ School)

### City of Fairview Heights

Heather Hinson  
10025 Bunkum Rd  
Fairview Heights, IL 62208  
618-489-2063  
[Heather.hinson.@cofh.org](mailto:Heather.hinson.@cofh.org)  
<http://www.cofh.org>  
(Government)

### Greater St. Louis Area Scouting

Richard Morse  
4568 West Pine Blvd.  
St. Louis, MO 63108  
618 207-6442  
[richard.morse@scouting.org](mailto:richard.morse@scouting.org)  
<http://stlbsa.org>  
(Organization)

### ICON Trophies and Designs

Tyler Bennett  
3512 Lebanon Avenue, Ste B  
Shiloh, IL 62221  
618 234-5001  
[sales@icontd.com](mailto:sales@icontd.com)  
<http://www.icontd.com>  
(Signs and Graphics)

### Metro Alliance FC

James Chambers  
229 West 1st Sat  
O'Fallon, IL 62269  
217-316-9256  
[James@metroalliancefc.com](mailto:James@metroalliancefc.com)  
<http://www.metroalliancefc.com>  
(Sports and Recreation)

### Polar Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning

Samantha Burdess  
2227 Vandalia St.  
Collinsville, IL 62234  
618-772-7007  
[callpolaraire@gmail.com](mailto:callpolaraire@gmail.com)  
<http://www.callpolar.com>  
(Home Improvement & Services)

### Preferred Plumbing

Kevin Townsend  
121 Behrens Dr. Ste 4  
O'Fallon, IL 62269  
618-632-7683  
[Preferred121@gmail.com](mailto:Preferred121@gmail.com)  
<http://www.PreferredPlumbingLLC.com>  
(Home Improvement & Services)

### RK Solutions Group, LLC

Rebecca Kenison  
Caseyville, IL 62232  
618 207-8439  
[rebecca@rksolutionsgroup.org](mailto:rebecca@rksolutionsgroup.org)  
<http://www.rksolutionsgroup.org>  
(Business/Management Consulting)



Newsletter Sponsor \$100  
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Full Page Ad \$50  
1/2 Page Ad \$35  
1/4 Page Ad \$25

[LEARN MORE](#)

# MEMBER RENEWALS

## CHAIRMAN'S CIRCLE

- HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital

## CHAMBER CHAMPIONS

- Jack Schmitt Chevrolet

## STAR INVESTOR

- Farmers and Merchants National Bank
- Heartland Bank

## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

- Barcom Security
- Benedictine Living Community at the Shrine
- Beth Ortega Group Real Estate
- Bright Ideas & More LLC
- Brown Premier Car Service
- Cedar Ridge Health and Rehab Center

- Christian Brothers Automotive
- Clearwave Fiber
- Courage and Grace\*
- Drakes
- Elafros Financial Group
- Esse Health
- Etc. Event Planning & Marketing LLC
- F-M Exteriors
- First United Methodist Church
- Furchild\*
- Gateway Region YMCA of O'Fallon
- Gate Way Solutions
- Gonzalez Companies
- Hospice of Southern IL
- Jennifer Mueller Memorial Foundation
- Joshua's Landscape, LLC
- Kukorola Appraisals\*
- MassageLuxe
- Mathis Marifian & Richter, LTD
- Merrill Lynch

- Metro East Diaper Bank
- Ned Properties, LLC\*
- Redbox+ Dumpster Rental of St. Louis Metro East
- Rickhoff Business in Balance
- Roy-El Catering
- Simplifying Beauty
- Sisters in Service
- St. Clair Square
- St. Clare School\*
- TWM, Inc.
- The Upright Pub and Music Parlor\*
- UB Greensfelder LLP
- Yummy Rice Bowls

*\*Downtown District Members*



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

## MEET YOUR CHAMBER STAFF



**Debbie Arell-Martinez**  
President/CEO



**Doris Obernuefemann**  
Operations Manager



**Jonathan Simmons**  
Marketing &  
Communications Manager



**Jessica Lotz**  
Leadership &  
Development Coordinator



**Johnnie Hodges**  
Membership Coordinator



# COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

## 2025 Learn Local



**SIGN UP**

Join us for Learn Local, a 3-day workshop dedicated to understanding how our community works!

If you've ever wanted to participate in our Lead In program but can't... great news! We are offering the educational content from Lead In to our chamber members through a 9-hour workshop (held over 3 days).

Learn how new developments and businesses come into our community, how first responders, parks and streets are funded and the process through which all of these things happen. You'll walk away with a detailed understanding of the business community, local government and public education.

**April 29 • May 6 • May 13**

**Location:** Farmers and Merchants Bank Conference Room

**Time:** 9:00a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**Cost:** \$249

## Our Community Salutes Ceremony

Join us on May 1st at 6 p.m. at the Milburn School Auditorium as we recognize high school seniors committing to military service.

This special ceremony—our community's first of its kind—will honor these graduates with inspiring speakers, an oath of enlistment, and well-deserved recognition.

Let's show them our support as they take this next step in serving our country.

Make plans to be part of it! *You can volunteer, attend and/or sponsor.*



**LEARN MORE**

Join us for the  
**OUR COMMUNITY SALUTES**  
**High School Enlistee  
Recognition Ceremony**



**Thursday, May 1, 2025**

**Doors open 5:00pm • Ceremony 6:00pm**

**O'Fallon Township HS, Milburn Campus  
- Auditorium**

650 Milburn School Rd., O'Fallon, IL 62269

★★★ **REGISTER NOW** ★★★

**[community.ocsusa.org/greater-ofallon/](http://community.ocsusa.org/greater-ofallon/)**





THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

## Event Sponsors



Junior  
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**STEM Outreach**  
Scott Air Force Base



## Golden Apple Sponsors



HSHS  
**St. Elizabeth's**  
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**HealthCare**  
Memorial Hospital



## Green Apple Sponsors

**CEFCU**

Not a bank. Better. ®



CAMBRIDGE  
CAPITAL MANAGEMENT



Magnolia Soap  
& BATH CO





# 2025 SALUTE TO BUSINESS AWARDS

SALUTE TO

*Business*  
AWARDS

O'FALLON-SHILOH  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

We can hardly wait to celebrate the remarkable achievements of businesses that have made significant contributions over the past year. The **2025 Salute to Business Awards** is just around the corner, and this year's celebration will be something special!

Join us at the brand-new Katy Cavins Community Center on **Tuesday, May 20th**, for an after-hours style event. Your ticket includes appetizers—one each—from *Boarding House Bistro*, *Le Ono*, *Andria's Steakhouse*, and *August the Mansion*. And yes, we'll have a bar, because what's a celebration without raising a glass?

We'll also have time before or after the event to explore the stunning new park. We will again have the bottle pull to support our *OTHS Future Business Leaders of America*!

Keep an eye on our E-News for ticket and sponsorship information. We can't wait to celebrate these milestones and achievements with you!

## 2025 SALUTE TO BUSINESS AWARD RECIPIENTS

### HERITAGE AWARDS

Shiloh Church Building (Celebrating 150 years)  
HSHS - St. Elizabeth's Hospital (150 years)  
Rotary Club of O'Fallon (noon club) (100 years)  
O'Fallon Community Park (100 years)

### ROTARY'S COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Roots Tree, Stump, and Land  
Serra Honda O'Fallon

### TRANSFORMATION AWARD

Bel-O Heating & Cooling

### ECONOMIC IMPACT AWARD

State Construction

### AMBASSADOR IMPACT AWARD

To Be Announced at the event

### SPIRIT OF THE CHAMBER AWARD

Far Oaks Golf Club

**SAVE THE DATE FOR MAY 20!**



# O'FALLON-SHILOH MAKES HISTORY AT THE NATIONAL CIVICS BEE®!

March 13th was one for the history books! The O'Fallon-Shiloh Chamber of Commerce, along with an upstate Illinois Chamber, proudly became the first Illinois Chambers to take part in the U.S. Chamber of Commerce National Civics Bee®.

It all started back in December when local 6th, 7th, and 8th graders put their thinking caps on and submitted essays about problems in their communities and creative ways to solve them. The response was amazing, with a whopping 448 students joining in! After tough competition, the top 20 essayists earned their spots in the live event.

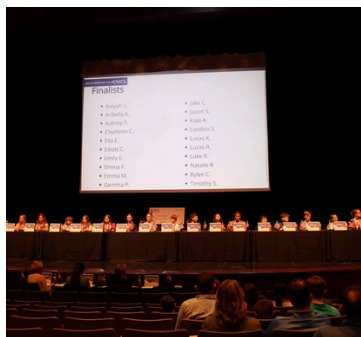
Representing our amazing community were students from Shiloh Middle School, Edward Fulton Junior High, and Amelia Carriel Junior High. We even saw the children of several of our chamber members at this event! These young leaders tackled two rounds of challenging civics questions before the top five finalists took the stage to present their essays to a panel of judges.

## And the winners are...

**1st Place: Rylee C., 7th Grade, Fulton Junior High**

**2nd Place: Lucas K., 7th Grade, Fulton Junior High**

**3rd Place: Kate A., 7th Grade, Fulton Junior High**



These stellar students didn't just take home trophies and cash prizes—they also earned spots in the upcoming state competition on July 31st. There, they'll face off against finalists from four other Illinois Chambers. ***Let's give them all the support they deserve as they prepare to make us proud!***

An event like this doesn't happen without the help of so many incredible people. Huge shoutout to:

- Our amazing educators who rallied the students
- The essay judges who read through all those entries
- The Hett at McKendree University for hosting us in their awesome venue
- Emcee Matt Gilreath of Keep Calm and Carry for keeping the event lively
- And, of course, our distinguished panel of judges: Dr. Martha Weld, Matt Smallheer, and Dr. Laura Van Hook

Chamber President/CEO Debbie Arell-Martinez summed it up perfectly: ***"This event was such a proud moment for our community. Seeing the passion, creativity, and civic-minded spirit of these students was inspiring. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped make it happen-this collaboration highlights the best of what we can achieve together."***

**Let's cheer on our top three as they gear up to represent O'Fallon-Shiloh at the state competition. Go team!**

View pictures of the event on our FB page [www.facebook.com/ofallonshilohchamber](https://www.facebook.com/ofallonshilohchamber)  
For additional information, please contact Debbie Arell-Martinez, [director@ofallonchamber.com](mailto:director@ofallonchamber.com).





Easter is just around the corner, and we know how busy this time of year can be! We would be honored if you let Regency Catering To Go lend a hand on the meal prep so you focus on making memories with your loved ones.

We're offering a delicious, hassle-free catered Easter dinner, perfect for your family gathering. Our menu features your choice of Southern Fried Chicken, Roast Beef or Honey Glazed Spiral Ham, plus three side dishes of your choice.

#### Order Details:

- You can order an extra Entree or Side Dishes to accommodate larger groups.
- All food is pre-cooked, hot and ready to serve at pickup.
- Pickup Easter Sunday between 11 am - 3 pm (*a specific time will be selected by you during the order process*)

[PLACE AN ORDER](#)

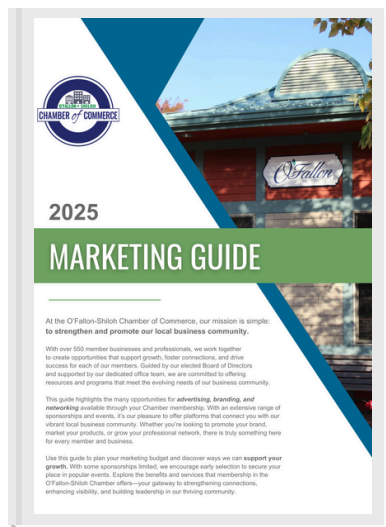


If you're interested in doing something really special for Mom, then we invite you gather your family and join us - but get your reservation in early! Prime-times of this event book quickly!

Our Brunch Buffet includes an extensive menu of both lunch and breakfast items that we are sure to please everyone in your family.

- **DATE:** Sunday - May 11th
- **TIMES:** 10:30 am, 11:00 am, 12:30 pm, and 1:00 pm
- **RESERVATIONS CLOSE:** May 9th - maybe sooner if seating sells out.

[RESERVE NOW](#)



## NEW MARKETING GUIDE AVAILABLE!

Our newly designed **2025 Marketing Guide** is here! Explore **no-cost and low-cost** marketing opportunities across our **website, newsletter, podcast, and even a billboard!**

Take a few minutes to browse through it, and reach out to **Jonathan** for more details.

[CHECK IT OUT](#)



# CARING FOR YOU LIKE FAMILY



HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital has been connected to the community for generations. As your trusted source for health care, we combine innovative technology with the caring spirit of our team to ensure your needs are met today and for years to come.

Lindsay, RN  
Women and Infants Center



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# SCOTT AFB, IL OPEN HOUSE & STEM EXPO

JUNE 14, 2025

.....  
**FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**  
**GATES OPEN 9-4**  
.....

**COME EXPLORE!**

**WE'RE OPENING OUR DOORS FOR  
YOU TO COME SEE YOUR AIR FORCE  
& MILITARY SERVICES AT WORK!**

The Open House will feature static aircraft and a variety of military equipment, assets and exhibits! It will also feature a STEM Expo, perfect for families or anyone interested in aviation or the military.

**COME CELEBRATE!**

**SCOTT FIELD & THE ARMY'S BIRTHDAY & FLAG DAY!**



**FOR UPDATES, VISIT [WWW.SCOTT.AF.MIL/OPENHOUSE](http://WWW.SCOTT.AF.MIL/OPENHOUSE)**

**FREE PARKING \* LOCATED OFF HWY 64, EXIT 19A**



**@SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE**



# 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 133,110 vehicles daily*

52 WEEKS  
\$1,600

32 WEEKS  
\$1,200

20 WEEKS  
\$900



Have more questions?  
Reach out to the Chamber!

**CLAIM YOUR SPOT**



**CLAIM YOUR SPOT**



## 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/SPOT

20-SECOND  
SPOT

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ABOUT YOUR  
BUSINESS!



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**VIEW WINTER NEWSLETTER**

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[www.ofallontownship.com](http://www.ofallontownship.com)

GARY AHLE  
ROAD DISTRICT TREASURER  
GARY HURSEY  
TOWNSHIP CLERK  
PHONE (618) 632-3517  
FAX (618) 632-3545

THE AFTER PROM COMMITTEE

Chairman: Gary Hursey  
[gary@telecomdirectusa.com](mailto:gary@telecomdirectusa.com)

As the April 26, 2025 Junior/Senior Prom date approaches, the O'Fallon Township After Prom Committee swings into action. The After Prom event is a thirty-one-year tradition of providing a safe and fun place for our children after the prom. Planned activities include the awarding of prizes, gift certificates and sporting event tickets throughout the evening. Entertainment for this evening will be bowling, karaoke and trivia along with other planned activities featuring a Caricature Artist and Photo Booth.

The After Prom Party will cost approximately \$15,000 which is paid for by donations from businesses and organizational contributions. We greatly appreciate the funding that has been given over the years, and at this time are asking businesses and organizations to again consider helping us to continue the After Prom tradition of good, safe fun. Any donation provided will be greatly appreciated.

Please return the bottom of this letter with your donation or call if you need a committee member to pick up donated items. We would like to hear from you as soon as possible so we can continue to plan accordingly. However, please feel free to make your donations as late as the date of the After Prom if necessary.

*THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION OF THE 2025 AFTER PROM PARTY.*

Pledge Sheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Business/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE RETURN TO: After Prom Committee  
801 E. State Street  
O'Fallon, IL 62269-1579

\*Please make checks payable to "After Prom Committee"





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



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EMAIL QUESTIONS OR RESUME/COVER LETTER TO: [SilverCreekAreaCEO@gmail.com](mailto:SilverCreekAreaCEO@gmail.com)






**» LEARN MORE**

**DID YOU KNOW?**

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

Click below to view the March and April newsletters:



Some brave faculty and students took an improvised "Polar Plunge" on March 21st in honor of World Down Syndrome Day!

O'Fallon Fire Rescue supplied the water but our Special Olympics Illinois Athlete friend wanted a photo in front of our Illinois Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics wrapped police car instead of the fire truck. We think he made a good choice!






The 2025 Law Enforcement Torch Run Polar Plunge for Special Olympics is in the books. And oh what a plunge it was...

Air temp 33  
Water temp 33.6  
Wind rough  
Ice 4" thick

But over 35 O'Fallon team members braved the water and ice and conquered the plunge.

We will do anything for our athletes.

Once again you helped us become the top fundraising team (over \$45,000) in the region and possibly the state, there are still some plunges going on. Click here to watch the plunge!

Thank you again Citizens of O'Fallon



# COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT OF THE MONTH

The Chamber of Commerce has eight impactful committees that serve to make our community a better place to live. Each month we will highlight a committee and the work they are doing in our area.

## THE GOLF COMMITTEE

This month, we're shining the spotlight on our Golf Committee, co-chaired by Dan Jackson of Carrollton Bank and Erik Huber of BOS Banking Center. Their leadership and dedication have been instrumental in making our annual golf tournament a resounding success. 2025 marks the 28th year of our renowned golf tournament, which has grown tremendously over the years.

Back in 2002, during our 5th annual tournament, we welcomed 83 players. Last year, we had an impressive 204 golfers! Over the years, the tournament has evolved, and this year will be our 12th hosting two tournament sessions. Golfers now have the option to play in the morning or the afternoon—an addition that has been incredibly well-received.



Recognizing the post-COVID shift in people's schedules, we've also introduced thoughtful changes, such as dinner-to-go and a virtual awards program, ensuring participants can support the Chamber without compromising other obligations. These updates have become some of our most appreciated changes.

For over 20 years, we've partnered with Far Oaks Golf Course, a relationship that has flourished over time. It was their own golf pro, Doyle Moffitt, who suggested moving to a two-session format—a change that transformed the event into what it is today.

“

**Our tournament is one of the premier golf events in the area. It's always a full house, with golfers eager to participate year after year.**

*-Dan Jackson, Chamber Treasurer*

”

# COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT OF THE MONTH

## THE GOLF COMMITTEE



### Interesting Fact

Doug Distler, First Bank and Past Chamber President, chaired this committee for an impressive 20 years! His contributions laid the foundation for much of the tournament's success and growth.

### How Your Support Matters

The golf tournament is the Chamber's sole fundraiser, and all proceeds are used to support essential member services and programs. This event's success is directly tied to the generosity and involvement of our community.

### Sponsorship Opportunities

We offer a range of sponsorship opportunities to showcase your business and support this highly anticipated event:

- Hole Sponsorships at different price points
- Water or Beer Sponsors
- Pin Flag Sponsors
- Meal/Snack Sponsors

*Additionally, businesses can contribute golf-related items to our goodie bags, putting your brand front and center with our participants.*



## JOIN THE TEAM!

Each year our Golf Committee is made up of hardworking individuals dedicated to ensuring the event's success. From securing players and sponsors to helping on the day of the tournament, being part of the committee is both challenging and rewarding.

If you're interested in joining the committee, please reach out to Debbie soon, as the team will be forming shortly. We can't wait to celebrate another fantastic year of golf while supporting the Chamber and its members!

[EMAIL DEBBIE](#)



# MEMBER NEWS

GATEWAY GRIZZLIES

## easter egg HUNT

Call Before You Dig  
**JULIE**  
BLUNDEN  
ONE-CALL SYSTEM

**Saturday April 19<sup>th</sup>** GATES OPEN: 8:30AM  
EVENT ENDS 11:30AM

**ADVANCE TICKETS**  
\$10 FOR KIDS  
**EVENT DAY TICKETS**  
\$15 FOR KIDS  
PARENTS ARE FREE

BRING YOUR OWN BASKET,  
OR GRAB ON OF OUR  
GRIZZLIES BAGS  
COMPLIMENTS OF JULIE811.

**Affordable.  
Family.  
Fun.**

**Egg Hunt Times:**

- 1-2 YEAR AGE GROUP  
9:30 AM - 9:45AM
- 3-4 YEAR AGE GROUP  
9:45 AM-10:00 AM
- 5-6 YEAR AGE GROUP  
10:00 AM-10:15AM
- 7-8 YEAR AGE GROUP  
10:15 AM-10:30 AM
- 9-10 YEAR AGE GROUP  
10:30 AM-10:45AM
- 11-12 YEAR AGE GROUP  
10:45 AM-11:00 AM

**Ticket includes:**

- Meet Izzy and the Easter Bunny with photo opportunity
- Mystery Prizes in each age group's egg hunt
- Face painting
- Balloon Artist
- Kids Zone with playground and inflatable games

**TICKETS**



Gateway Grizzlies 2301 Grizzly Bear Blvd. Sauget, IL 62206  
For Ticket Information Call: (618) 337-3000 Visit Us Online at [www.GatewayGrizzlies.com](http://www.GatewayGrizzlies.com)

[GET TICKETS NOW](#)

## WE NEED THEM. THEY NEED US.

Be the first to say thank you

### Our Community Salutes of Greater O'Fallon

2025 High School Enlistee Recognition Ceremony  
O'Fallon Township HS, Milburn Campus - Auditorium  
May 1, 2025 | 6:00 PM

[community.ocsusa.org/greater-ofallon](http://community.ocsusa.org/greater-ofallon)



NEW

## READERS' CORNER

FEATURED MEMBER ARTICLES



### The High-Performance Habit: How 60 Minutes a Week Elevates Your Business

Hey Chamber Members! While everyone else is struggling to maintain spring momentum, the smartest business owners have discovered the energy advantage that's transforming their entire workday.

What's their secret? Just 60 strategic minutes weekly that's revolutionizing how local entrepreneurs power through their demanding schedules. Forget the afternoon caffeine emergencies – there's a better way to fuel your business potential.

In this month's performance accelerator:

- The minimal effective dose for maximum business energy
- Three schedule strategies that actually work (even for the "too busy")
- The entrepreneur's ROI calculation that makes perfect business sense
- Quick-start power moves you can implement today

Why are some chamber members conquering their to-do lists while others hit the wall by 3 PM? Our April feature reveals the high-performance habit that's separating the leaders from the laggards.

*"Two focused strength sessions changed everything. My decision-making is sharper, my presence is stronger, and I finally have energy left for my actual life after work."* - Chamber Business Owner

Ready to power your potential this season? Discover the 60-minute weekly system transforming local businesses.  
→ [Read the full article](#)

*P.S. Because your business runs on YOU.*

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

[SUBMIT PRESS RELEASE](#)

[VIEW ALL NEWS](#)





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**  
**\$1,600**

**32 weeks**  
**\$1,200**

**20 weeks**  
**\$900**

**TYPE OF BILLBOARD:** Digital LED

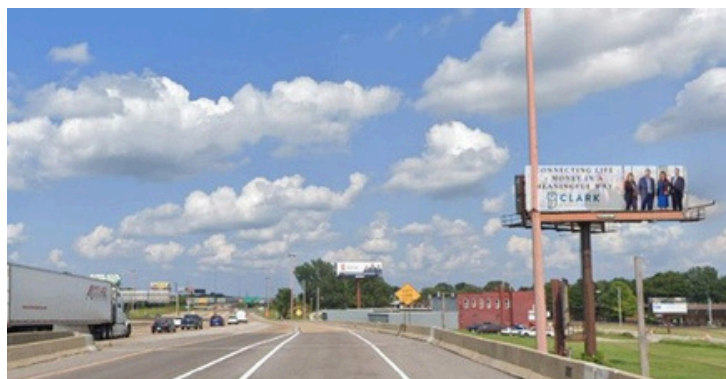
**SIZE OF BILLBOARD:** 14X49 ft

**TRAFFIC COUNT:** 133,110 vehicles daily

**AD DIMENSIONS:** 400 pixels high by 1400 pixels wide

**AD FORMAT:** JPG, PDF OR PNG

**PLUS:** Now includes your ad on our new Chamber website for one quarter!



## SIGN ME UP!

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**BUSINESS NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_ **PHONE #:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

☐ **52 WEEKS | \$1,600**      ☐ **32 WEEKS | \$1,200**      ☐ **20 WEEKS | \$900**

☐ **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.

# BUSINESS TRACK INSIGHTS

## What to Do When an Employee Spends Too Much Time on Their Cell Phone

by Kathy Simpson | *The Hartford, Small Biz Ahead*

Cell phones are driving many of us to distraction—and taking a toll on productivity in the workplace. Nineteen percent of employers think their workers are productive for less than five hours a day, and more than half believe that cell phones are to blame.

Indeed, every beep, buzz and glow emanating from our personal devices are designed to lure us in while hijacking our time and disrupting our concentration. A short call or text message here or there may not harm productivity in a noticeable way, but excessive use can become a big problem. So, how can you stop employees from using cell phones at work? Do you need a cell phone policy at work? Keep reading for tips on creating a company cell phone policy and handling usage across your workplace.



### How to Deal With Overuse of Personal Cell Phones in the Workplace

As a small business owner, it's normal to wonder how to deal with an employee who uses their mobile phone at work too much. Due to the habit-forming, ubiquitous nature of cell phones, it's important to address their inevitable presence and intervene when your employees are loath to put their devices aside — just as you must take action with the employee who always calls in sick. Below are a few tactics to help you exert some measure of control over cell phones in your workplace.

#### Face the Reality

Cell phones and mobile devices are here to stay. This means creating a “no texting while working” policy isn't ideal. Ninety-five percent of Americans now own a cell phone of some kind, and family-friendly employers know that even though work comes first and foremost, personal devices are vital for employees who need to check in with their children and attend to important personal matters during the day.

Unless there are safety concerns, creating a “no cell phone use at work” policy can be perceived as punitive. In fact, posting a “mobile phones not allowed in workplace” notice will likely lead to morale problems. And although blocking cellular signals within your workplace may be a tempting solution, it's not practical. Disabling Wi-Fi can impede your own business communications, and a cell phone jammer, which can effectively shut down signals throughout your business area, is not only dangerous, it is also illegal in the U.S.

It's better to accept cell phones as a part of modern-day work life and establish policies for their use. As long as you enforce your “cell phone use at work” policies, you should see usage settle at levels that are reasonable for your business.

#### Set Limits

Chances are that you're going to see an employee on their cellphone here and there. That's why you'll want to set limits or mobile phone restrictions at work depending on:

- The nature of your business
- Each employee's job
- The types of issues you've experienced



For example, cell phone use is typically prohibited under the following circumstances:

- During meetings, training sessions and conferences
- When employees are interacting with customers
- In production areas and kitchens or while operating heavy equipment as cell phone use at work can present a safety hazard
- While driving, except when a Bluetooth connection is available or when the driver is pulled over to the side of the road. (This is a requirement enforced by OSHA, the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration, for which you are legally responsible as an employer.)

Your cell phone policy could also define:

- When cell phone use during work hours is acceptable, such as during breaks and lunchtime
- The frequency and length of calls permitted during working hours
- If headsets are permitted
- Where to store personal devices. Keeping phones out of sight, such as in a desk drawer, is an effective way to keep distractions to a minimum.
- Appropriate use during business hours. For example, business calls and brief conversations or texts with family members may be okay, but playing games or downloading music is not.

Just make sure that the limits for your smartphone policy for employees are fair and flexible. While establishing a zero-tolerance cell phone policy isn't the best route, you can always tighten up your policies if necessary.

### **Define Etiquette for Personal Cell Phones in the Workplace**

Not only do cell phones distract their owners, but calls can be especially annoying to the employees sitting close to the talker. These guidelines can minimize disruptions and help keep the peace, even when employees are on their phones:

- Set cell phones to vibrate and ringtones to silent
- Speak quietly
- Keep calls short
- Take personal calls in private
- Avoid offensive language
- Use texting as a quick and quiet alternative to talking on the phone
- Do not use cell phone cameras (to protect everyone's privacy)

### **Put Your Cell Phone Policy in Writing**

To ensure that your cell phone policy at work is understood and followed, put it in writing. You can search for a cell phone policy template online or you can create one yourself. Whichever option you choose make sure you spell out your terms in clear, unambiguous language. Be sure to include the rationale for each term you outline, such as ensuring safety or maintaining productivity.

Include the disciplinary actions that will follow if policy terms are violated. This could include multiple stages (verbal warning, written warning and final warning) and may include a cell phone ban if usage interferes with business operations and the possibility of termination if use causes an accident or violates the company's confidentiality policy.

Require all employees to review and sign the policy, indicating that they understand the policy terms and the consequences of violations.

### **Lead by Example**

Is your cell phone use killing your productivity at work? If you want your employees to adopt new cell phone habits, you must be impeccable in modeling the behavior you wish to cultivate. If you're taking personal calls or texting during meetings, your employees won't take your cell phone policy very seriously. Be a stellar role model, and your employees will be more likely to follow suit.

*Next Steps: Are you interested in learning additional ways to manage your employees more effectively but don't have time to keep up with the latest research and trends in talent management? We've got you covered with the weekly [Small Biz Ahead Newsletter](#). Sign up today and start receiving tools, insights and resources to help you run a successful business.*

# MONTHLY CALENDAR



- 1 ..... [Ribbon Cutting - The Suites at Tiffany Ink](#)  
12:00 p.m. | 5036 North Illinois Street, Ste A, Fairview Heights
- 2 ..... [Healthcare and Wellness Committee Meeting](#)  
8:15 a.m. | The Rehabilitation Institute of Southern Illinois
- 4 ..... [Ribbon Cutting - ZAZA Nail Spa & Lashes | O'Fallon](#)  
11:00 a.m. | 1313 Central Park Drive, O'Fallon
- 8 ..... [Military Affairs Committee Meeting](#)  
3:30 p.m. | VFW Post 805, O'Fallon
- 9 ..... [Downtown District Committee Meeting](#)  
8:45 a.m. | City Hall Council Chambers
- 9 ..... [Ambassador Meeting](#)  
11:15 a.m. | Southern Illinois Builders Association
- 10 ..... [8th Grade Career Fair](#)  
8:00 a.m. | Regency Conference Center, O'Fallon
- 15 ..... [Education Committee Meeting](#)  
11:00 a.m. | O'Fallon District 90 Offices
- 17 ..... [Ribbon Cutting - CALC Institute of Technology](#)  
12:00 p.m. | 1476 Green Mount Road, O'Fallon
- 25 ..... [Business Over Breakfast \(BOB\)](#)  
8:00 a.m. | O'Fallon Public Safety Building
- 28 ..... [Executive Board Meeting](#)  
1:15 p.m. | Chamber Depot
- 28 ..... [Member Engagement Committee \(MEC\)](#)  
2:30 p.m. | Chamber Depot
- 29 ..... [MAXimize Your Benefits \(MAX\)](#)  
8:30 a.m. | 1st National Bank of Waterloo, O'Fallon
- 29 ..... [Learn Local](#)  
9:00 a.m. | Farmers & Merchant Bank Executive Board Room
- 30 ..... [Ribbon Cutting - Livido Wellness](#)  
12:00 p.m. | 1911 Frank Scott Parkway East, Ste 4, Shiloh





# upcoming events

## APRIL

### 04.10 | 8th Grade Career Fair

The O'Fallon-Shiloh Chamber of Commerce, Junior Achievement, Scott Air Force Base STEAM Advisory Group, and the Regency Conference Center host an Annual 8th Grade Career Fair. The fair is open to all O'Fallon-Shiloh public and private school 8th graders, and attended by 600+ students. Students are bused to the fair and given 1.5 hours to meet with 65+ careers (role models).

### 04.29 | MAXimize Your Benefits (MAX)

Are you a new Chamber member? A longtime member looking for a refresher on your benefits? Or perhaps you're considering joining the O'Fallon-Shiloh Chamber of Commerce?

We invite you to join us for a MAXimize Your Benefits session!

 REGISTER NOW

### 04.25 | Business Over Breakfast

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 held at the O'Fallon Public Safety Building.

 REGISTER NOW

### 04.29 | Learn Local

Join us for Learn Local, a 3-day workshop dedicated to understanding how our community works!

If you've ever wanted to participate in our Lead In program but can't... great news! We are offering the educational content from Lead In to our chamber members through a 9-hour workshop (*held over 3 days*).

 REGISTER NOW

## MAY

### 05.08 | Restaurant Roulette

You 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're randomly assigned a restaurant (*we'll let you know the day before where you're eating*).

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

### 05.10 | Salute to Business Awards

We love celebrating businesses! Join us as we recognize deserving companies, organizations, clients and business partners.

SAVE THE DATE! *More details to come soon.*

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  
Ameren  
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 House O'Fallon  
Care Access  
Carrollton Bank  
Catholic Community Credit Union  
Central Bank  
Clete's, Inc.  
Clinton Manor Living Center

Commerce Bank  
Country Estate Kennel  
Drury Inn & Suites  
Farmers & Merchants National Bank  
FCB Banks  
First Bank O'Fallon  
First Bankers Trust Company  
First Community Credit Union  
Gateway Metro Federal Credit Union  
Heartland Bank and Trust Company  
Hilton Garden Inn  
Holland Construction Services  
Kerber, Eck & Braeckel, LLP  
Keystone Place at Richland Creek  
Klein's Brand Source  
Lashley Animal Hospital  
Lincoln Surgical Associates, Ltd.  
Livido Wellness PLLC  
Mathis, Marifian & Richter, Ltd.

Merrill Lynch | Woody Gray  
Morrison Plumbing Heating & Air  
O'Fallon Shiloh Towing  
OST Container/Rental  
Regency Manor  
Regions Bank  
Revity Credit Union  
Sandberg Phoenix  
Scott Credit Union  
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

2024-2025 BOARD MEMBERS

John Eichenlaub BARBERMURPHY	Donna Richter Southern Illinois Builders Assoc.	Ex-Officio
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Jon Greenstreet Bike Surgeon	Susan Schultz Holland Construction	Mayor Robert Weilmuenster Village of Shiloh
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Chris Klay HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital	Mike Williams Serra Honda	

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John Grissom Berkshire Hathaway	Nathan Parchman Farmers & Merchants National Bank	Lisa Vorce Thrivent Financial - Lisa Vorce
Jaclyn Gross Fairfield Inn & Suites O'Fallon, IL	Ke'Ira Lewis Etc. Event Planning & Marketing	Justin Ward 1st National Bank of Waterloo
Cindy Hill Home Instead	Lindsay Porzeinski Home Heating & Cooling	Sheri Welch
Erik Huber Bank of Springfield		Tianna Wesselmann Okawville Equipment
Ken Hutchens Shiloh Church		



www.OFallonChamber.com P.O. Box 371, O'Fallon, IL 62269

*Additional events you might be interested in attending*

## SAVE THE DATES

### BUILDING BRIDGES

The power of networking for personal and professional growth

Thursday, January 9 • 11:00 a.m.

### 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE CAREER FAIR

Regency Conference Center

Thursday, April 10

### SALUTE TO BUSINESS AWARDS LUNCHEON

Tuesday, May 20

New format: it's an after hours!

### MAXIMIZE YOUR BENEFITS

Tuesday, February 25 • 8:30 a.m.

Tuesday, April 29 • 8:30 a.m.

Tuesday, June 24 • 8:30 a.m.

Prepaid Standard  
US Postage Paid  
Permit NO. 46  
O'Fallon, IL 62269

ADDRESS SERVICES CORRECTED

Layout and Printing by: Digitally Designed Technologies

## BE OUR NEWSLETTER SPONSOR!

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

### BUSINESS AFTER HOURS (BAH)

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



Powered by Lebanon Electric  
Hosted at The Hut

130 Behrens Drive, O'Fallon

Tuesday, January 28 • 5-6:30 p.m.



Woltersberger Funeral Home  
102 W. Washington St., O'Fallon

Tuesday, March 25 • 5-6:30 p.m.



BARBERMURPHY Group

20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Hosted at Gateway Classic Cars

1237 Central Park Drive, O'Fallon

Tuesday, June 17 • 5-6:30 p.m.

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

### RESTAURANT ROULETTE

Thursday, January 16 11:30 a.m.

Thursday, March 13 11:30 a.m.

Thursday, May 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!

### COFFEE CONNECT

Thursday, January 30 8:00 a.m.

Location: at various member businesses

### BUSINESS OVER BREAKFAST (BOB)

Friday, February 28 8:00 a.m.

Friday, April 25 8:00 a.m.

Friday, June 27 8:00 a.m.



all BOB events located at

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

January - June 2025  
SAVE THE DATES