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JOURNAL

FEBRUARY
2019

Building blocks for success

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The Joyner team, left to right: Corky Joyner, president; Sarah Howell, residential leasing manager; Joy Myers, office manager; David Marable, construction field coordinator; Kurt Armstrong, construction office coordinator; and Mike Blindauer, vice president of construction operations.

PHOTOS BY DAVID BLANCHETTE

Building blocks for success

BY DAVID BLANCHETTE

You see them every day: the restaurants, mobile phone stores, bank branches, nail salons, automobile dealerships, strip malls, apartments and other new or revamped buildings going up throughout the Springfield area. These commercial and multifamily residential structures – costing \$2.5 million or under to build – are the bread and butter for Joyner Construction Services, a Springfield general contracting and construction management company founded in 2007.

“We feel we are very competitive in that market. We do very little government work; we don’t do hospital or school work. We do mostly private business and multifamily residences,” said president Corky Joyner, who brings 23 years of construction and real estate development experience to the company. “We work for some really good companies, some small, some larger. There seems to be a fairly steady amount of work in that two-and-a-half-million and under market.”

Joyner has been in the land development business since the mid-90s and owns a number of buildings. The land development market

had robust growth in the 1990s and early 2000s but then slowed down substantially, and that’s when Joyner saw an opportunity for a small business-oriented construction company.

The Joyner Construction Services team includes director of construction operations Mike Blindauer, who has been with the firm since day one. Joyner is in charge of development and management. Other key personnel include Kurt Armstrong, who joined the firm a year and a half ago, and recent addition David Marable. The company’s 15 employees include four field superintendents and office support staff. Joyner Construction is a general contractor, which means they hire subcontractors to do the majority of the work.

Joyner made the strategic decision to focus on smaller commercial buildings with a start-to-finish timetable of less than a year. Many of the structures the company builds or remodels are for businesses that aren’t significantly impacted by competition from internet sales. These include the ubiquitous strip malls with their specialty retail, service and casual dining tenants.

“A lot of people take ‘strip mall’ as a bad word, but they are kind of like the old downtown block where you had four or five buildings – the baker, jewelry store, sandwich shop – all of those things next to each other,” Joyner said. “Our strip mall tenants are usually operations for which there is still opportunity; the internet has not put them out of business.”

Joyner’s work with strip malls caters to a booming segment of the construction economy. The performance of in-line retail centers commonly known as strip malls is holding up exceptionally well, according to reports from

Bisnow, an online commercial real estate news source.

“The tenant mix in strip centers is a healthy mix of internet-resistant retailers and service-oriented tenants,” including hospital groups that are reentering neighborhoods, Bisnow reports. “With little new strip mall construction in progress, immediate demand from tenants has revitalized strip malls, especially those that were built 20 to 50 years ago.”

Joyner’s strip mall projects include Wabash Marketplace 1 and 2, Koke Mill, Octavus Plaza, Atlanta Street and Meadowbrook strip malls in Springfield; the Jerome Mini-Mall and Lincoln Retail Center in Lincoln.

The company’s new single and double-occupancy commercial structures can be seen on virtually every major thoroughfare. Owners and tenants for these buildings include SASA Nails, Mimosa, IHOP, Roberts Automotive, Qik-n-EZ, Taco Bell, Allscripts Healthcare, Engrained Brewery & Restaurant, Golden Corral, Dairy Queen, Pie’s the Limit and LifeStar Ambulance in Springfield; Domino’s in Chatham; Illini Bank in Sherman; A&W Restaurant and Little Caesar’s in Jacksonville; Litchfield Library and Litchfield National Bank; and Hickory Point Bank in Decatur.

Cobblestone Place Apartments on Springfield’s west side is an example of Joyner’s multifamily residential work.

Joyner’s next new commercial building will be located on West Jefferson in Springfield between McDonald’s and Hardee’s. The lot was purchased by a client, and the 4,000-square-foot structure will be a duplex retail building with Domino’s as one tenant.

Joyner has also worked on numerous modifications, build-outs and remodels to

existing buildings, some of which exceeded the company’s typical project level. Joyner completed three substantial remodeling projects for Isringhausen Imports in Springfield, completely upgrading the auto dealership’s Mercedes-Benz, Porsche and Volvo facilities.

“There are other good, local business contractors, but Joyner got my attention. They had a very aggressive bid. I gave them an opportunity to do a project for us, and I’ve been very satisfied,” said Geoff Isringhausen, president of Isringhausen Imports. “They do very high-quality work and were responsive to the needs, questions or concerns that I had and addressed any issues promptly.”

Joyner worked with building owner Josh Wagoner to renovate the St. George Building in downtown Springfield, a project that involved rehabilitation tax credits and which transformed the vacant structure into upscale living units.

“The project went very well; they are good to work with,” Wagoner said. “I enjoyed how quick they were to respond when there was an issue. I’d do it again with them.”

Chris Hanken owns Pie’s the Limit, Mowie’s Cue and Lake Pointe Grill in Springfield. When the build-out of a structure in Rochester that would become Public House 29 was underway, Hanken brought Joyner in to consult about some problem areas.

“We sought Corky’s advice on some difficulties we were having and he jumped right in, worked out a deal with all the parties involved and took over the project,” Hanken said. “We knew it was going to be done right, and it turned out great.”

“Corky has an uncanny knack of putting things into laymen’s terms that a couple of

COVER PHOTO

Corky Joyner, president of Joyner Construction Services.

PHOTO BY DAVID BLANCHETTE



B.J. Grand Salon & Spa, South Sixth Street, Springfield.

restaurant guys can understand, instead of this contractor-builder talk,” Hanken said. “The fact that he can explain it to us, and he’s not just talking over our heads, is a great thing.”

After a project is designed, Joyner often hires Martin Engineering of Springfield to “stake everything out,” making sure that utilities and the building footprint are in the right place, or to spearhead design-build projects. Joyner recently did a 4,400-square-foot build-out on Martin’s main building to accommodate a tenant.

“Corky is really good at what he does. He’s a gutsy, creative, sophisticated owner,” said Phil Martin, president of Martin Engineering. “Our business is kind of tough. You have a lot of regulations and bad news coming your way. He doesn’t really sweat the small things.”

Joyner estimated that one-quarter of the

company’s construction work is negotiated, where a client comes directly to them and asks for a structure to be built or remodeled. Another one-fourth of the work is what Joyner terms an “invited list,” where someone who knows Joyner and one or two other contractors asks each one to submit a bid. Twenty-five percent of Joyner’s work is a straight bid where any qualified contractor can submit a bid for the job. But it’s the remaining 25 percent of the business that gives Joyner an edge in an uncertain economy.

“Being a real estate developer and being in the construction business, approximately a quarter of the work we do is generated for ourselves,” Joyner said. “It creates some steadiness to our income. Being self-employed, you are always kind of living on the next job, but since we create some of our own



Cobblestone Apartments on Yucan Drive in Springfield.

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work, it takes a little bit of that risk out.” Joyner said they have not built a lot of their own retail structures in the past three years, due to market factors, but have done steady retail construction work for their clients. He said quite a bit of work is under contract for the upcoming construction season. He’s looking forward to getting started on several of the projects, including some more complicated jobs which Joyner terms “a little bit more fun.” The glut of vacant office space in Springfield and competition from online retailers continue to be industry challenges, but Joyner is still glad he’s in the construction business.

“One of the best things about being in the development or construction business is you have a tangible product that you have created,” Joyner said. “There’s pride in being able to envision something and then making it come to fruition.

“I truly believe that we have been fortunate. I do not think the local economy is robust, but our business has been successful,” Joyner said. “We’ve had a lot of repeat business; we have a number of people that we work for time and again. It’s not like every day is my birthday – we have to work for it – but we have been very fortunate to create some good relationships.” ♦

David Blanchette is a freelance writer from Jacksonville and is also the co-owner of Studio 131 Photography in Springfield.



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CBD products grow in popularity

BY HOLLY WHISLER

By the close of 2018, worldwide sales of CBD oil and other cannabidiol-related products are projected to reach sales totaling \$300 million. In the U.S. alone, it is estimated that CBD sales for this year will exceed \$512 million and more than a billion dollars by 2020, according to statistics reported by Todd Eliason, publisher and editor-in-chief of *Direct Selling News*, (DSN), a publication that caters to executives of the direct selling industry. DSN also reports that direct selling is currently the largest channel of distribution for the CBD sector. However, an increasing number of retail stores are also beginning to carry CBD products.

Cannabidiol, or CBD, is one of 100 cannabinoids found in the *Cannabis sativa* plant. A cannabinoid is a compound found in cannabis. This is typically where the confusion begins – cannabis is not marijuana. Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) is the active ingredient of marijuana, which can have 0.5 percent up to 35 percent THC, while hemp naturally contains less than 0.3 percent.

It's important to make the distinction between hemp and marijuana because CBD products are made from both plants. Products made with marijuana will only be available in states with legalized medical or recreational marijuana use. CBD products made from industrial hemp have trace amounts of THC, but not enough to be intoxicating. In fact, some CBD products are purified to the point where they are THC-free.

Simply CBD, 1039 Junction Circle Drive, is a new business that carries CBD oil. Jane Martin, one of Simply CBD's co-owners, said that the CBD oil they carry is tested by a third-party lab and is guaranteed to contain zero THC.

Martin said, "We have repeat customers who use the oil for pain. Some use the balm, which is a topical CBD product. We have people come in who have medical marijuana cards but they don't want the THC," so they opt for the CBD oil without THC. Martin explained, "CBD releases serotonin and is not psychoactive. We're naturally improving life by helping people get off of their chemical medications."

In Illinois, CBD oil and other cannabidiol-related products such as edibles, balms, lotions or capsules are made from industrial hemp and are legal to sell over the counter or online. CBD products made from the marijuana plant are legal in Illinois for people who have a medical marijuana card and purchase products from a licensed dispensary.

What makes CBD oil and other cannabidiol-related products so wildly successful? Millions of Americans suffering from a myriad of medical conditions are searching for natural remedies that are not addictive, as opposed to opiates. Many claims have been made about the ability of CBD products to treat such ailments as pain, anxiety, arthritis, depression, diabetes, cancer, epilepsy, spasticity in multiple sclerosis patients, and chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting, just to name a few.

These claims give people hope, although the claims are not substantiated by scientific research or endorsed by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). One exception was when the

FDA approved a marijuana-extract CBD oil called Epidiolex in June 2018 to ease the seizures from two rare and severe types of epilepsy. This FDA approval of CBD oil for two types of epilepsy shows promise for future endorsements.

picked up in the last six to nine months. We carry five different brands, and some have trace amounts of THC but are not psychoactive. We also have different forms such as balms, gummies, capsules and sprays. It's popular because



Products on display at Food Fantasies

PHOTO BY STACIE LEWIS

Matt Fortin, owner of Upper Limits, was initially skeptical about CBD products. After doing some research and reading testimonials, he decided to try it himself and now carries CBD in his store. Fortin said, "Personally, I find it is good for inflammation. The balms are my favorite. There's no potential for abuse, because the CBD oil is not psychoactive. It's a great thing when you find a natural way of healing."

John Spencer, supplement buyer for Food Fantasies, said "Demand for CBD products has

people are delighted to scale back on their medications due to fear of being part of the opioid crisis."

Looking to the future, in order to gain the approval of the FDA, large-scale research studies are needed to test the claims of CBD oil and other cannabidiol-related products. Until that time, the CBD industry will continue to be fueled by consumers' hope for an alternative method of pain relief. ♦

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Professional Women's Calendar of Events

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Association for Women in Communications (AWC)

All AWC professional development programs are held the second Wednesday of the month from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Sangamo Club, unless otherwise noted. Non-members and guests are always welcome. For more information or to make reservations, visit www.awcspRINGfield.org.

Illinois Women in Leadership (IWIL)

IWIL will hold a program on Thursday, Feb. 21 with a lunch at the Sangamo Club from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Lisa Erickson, SVP of Traditional Investment Group at US Bank Wealth Management will speak on "Diversity in Leadership: Why it Matters." Registration is \$18 per person on or before February 15 and \$23 after February 15 or at the door. Visit www.iwil.biz for more information or to register.

Illinois Women in Leadership is now accepting nominations for this year's ATHENA leadership award. Submissions will be accepted online at iwil.biz through March 1. This is the sixth year that IWIL has presented the ATHENA award, which honors an exemplary leader who has achieved excellence in her business or profession, served the community in a meaningful way and, most importantly, actively assisted women to achieve their full leadership potential.

Women Entrepreneurs of Central Illinois (WE-CI)

Register now to exhibit or present during a spotlight session at the 2019 WE-CI Women's Showcase planned for Wednesday, March 13 from 4-7 p.m. at Erin's Pavilion. For more information on the Showcase or upcoming monthly programs, visit wecici.org/events.

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To have your event added to the Women's Calendar of Events, please email your information to info@springfieldbusinessjournal.com

An association for everyone

Rob French elected president of the Illinois Society of Association Executives

BY KAREN ACKERMAN WITTER

“No matter your profession or your passion, there’s a group of people who are fighting for you,” says Rob French, 2019 president of the Illinois Society of Association Executives (ISAE). Whether you are an engineer, medical technician, teacher, architect, farmer, beer distributor, economic developer, social service provider, park enthusiast, avid bicyclist or rock climber, there is an association devoted to serving members who share a common profession or interest.

ISAE supports the myriad of associations that exist within the state of Illinois. The mission of ISAE is to promote excellence and advance leadership in the Illinois association community. French is serving a one-year term as ISAE president and works as the executive director of the Illinois Economic Development Association.

ISAE members include executive directors and other staff of trade, professional, technical, educational or philanthropic membership organizations. Industry partners include companies, corporations or people who provide products or services to associations. Illinois’ economic situation and lack of a state budget has had an adverse impact on associations. When the state didn’t have a budget and wasn’t paying various providers of services, many groups were forced to cut membership fees out of their budgets.

French says ISAE is committed to demonstrating its value to the association community. “Why do we exist, and what do we provide to our membership are questions every associa-

tion must address,” says French. “ISAE has focused on this as well. The goal for ISAE is to be the primary resource for people in the association community for advice, best practices and standards. We want to lead by example.” Some of the resources provided by ISAE include best practices for communicating with members, how to select good board members, examples of effective by-laws and strategies for email marketing, as well as being a repository for success stories.

French grew up in Jerseyville and received his undergraduate degree in computer arts from Illinois State University. He earned his graduate degree in political science from the University of Illinois Springfield.

The UIS political science graduate program



Rob French

PHOTO COURTESY ISAE

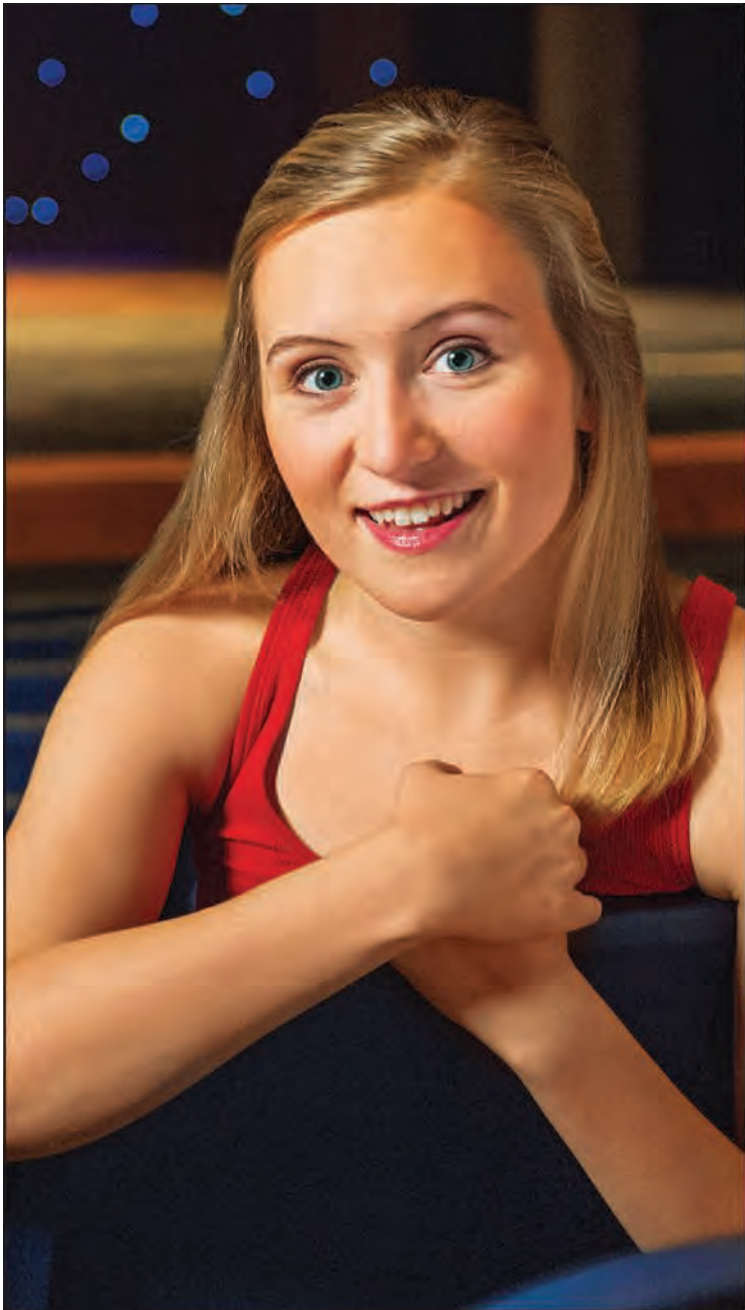
led to an internship with Cook-Witter, Inc., a governmental affairs and lobbying firm based in Springfield. French says that internship was

a very positive experience. It was also an introduction to the association world, since many of Cook-Witter’s clients were associations and Randy Witter was very active in ISAE.

The internship led to French becoming director of governmental relations for the Illinois Chiropractic Society (ICS) for eight years. In this capacity, he became involved with ISAE and served as legislative committee chair. French left the ICS at the end of 2016 to lead a new association management operation of Cook-Witter, Inc.

Associations are advocates for their members and provide continuity in communication on their behalf. Associations serve their members by being “a cog in the wheel and providing the backbone through regime changes in state government,” says French. He has a solution for people who don’t believe their interests are being represented. “Get involved. Volunteer for a committee. It takes the members to make the association work,” says French. ♦

Karen Ackerman Witter retired from a 35-year career in state government where she had many interactions with associations. She served on the boards of the Illinois Association of Museums and Association of Midwest Museums for many years and was an active member of the American Alliance of Museums. By attending many ISAE and ASAE conferences with her husband, Randy Witter, she developed a great appreciation for the value of organizations working to strengthen the association community.



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Rethinking workplace lunches

BY ZACH ROTH

Business people looking for a quick bite to eat often grab some greasy fast food to satiate their appetites before returning to work.

As much as people enjoy a double quarter-pounder, one can't help but wonder about the health risks associated with excessive consumption of fast food, especially by people who sit around all day without the opportunity to exercise to burn off the excess calories.

To that end, a new meal service venture is hoping to change these habits. GÜDgut.life has been established by a group of food lovers with diverse backgrounds, attempting to provide a healthier option for workplace lunches. The group has already made an impact in several businesses in the Springfield area and is looking forward to expanding their reach.

The main idea around the meals is simple: eating healthier food will keep your intestines from eating themselves from the inside. In promoting this, the group uses the term "microbiome." David Radwine, head chef of the GÜDgut.life project, explains, "What happens in your microbiome affects pretty much everything that goes on within your body." Radwine said, "It affects your brain, it affects depression, anxiety and chronic disease. Everything that you put in your mouth has some effect on everything you do."

Without good health in the microbiome, one's digestive health begins to fail. The bacteria located within the intestine can eat away at the intestinal lining, causing severe health problems. Jesse Brock, director of sales and market development for GÜDgut.life, made note of the vast numbers of little pieces within the body that can

be affected by a poor diet and eating habits.

"When they started doing the Genome Project in the late 90s, that's where the microbiome really started to take shape," Brock said. "There are about 100 trillion bacteria that live inside your digestive tract."

Brock is a living example of this. He suffered from ulcerative colitis that greatly impacted his ability to live a normal life. After many fits and starts, he was asked to change his diet and given a grocery list of items to help prepare better meals.

For 30 days, Brock stayed consistent with his new diet and saw his health greatly improve. This experience left Brock with a better understanding of how the body works and helped influence how he sees his own diet.

"I had to reintroduce the bacterias into my body," Brock said. "Bad bacteria cause leaky gut and that's the stem of most inflammation in the body. So, if you have arthritis, or if you have other types of autoimmune disorders, things where



Jesse Brock, director of sales and market development for GÜDgut.life.

PHOTO BY JANET SEITZ

doctors say they don't know what the actual answer is, we're starting to learn now that this is where most of that starts."

Brock would eventually team up with Radwine, a former Sangamo Club chef, and Dennis Bringuet, owner of Ace Sign Company, to form GÜDgut.life. All three have also had various health issues solved through an improved diet, in

addition to exercise programs such as CrossFit.

The meals provided by GÜDgut.life are specifically designed to promote healthy intestines, which in turn, help prevent various diseases and medical maladies. These include stews and salads made with fresh ingredients, as well as different kinds of fruits and desserts, even including a small piece of dark chocolate alongside certain meals.

"What we're doing is focusing on fresh, minimally processed foods, with lots of leafy greens such as kale, spinach and arugula — a lot of these types of vegetables, along with parsnips, carrots, celery, jicama and many other fresh vegetables," Radwine said.

Bringuet and Radwine started small, working with Ace Sign Company on workplace wellness. The idea proved so popular that other businesses wanted to get on board. To date, seven other businesses have done so, with more likely to join in later.

"We're so happy to see people enjoying the food, and more importantly, helping their health," Bringuet said. "In this country, we're faced with some real problems with health care. I think a lot of it is because of our lifestyle crisis. The more and more you read and see, there's a lot more mainstreaming of that issue."

Brock and Bringuet run the business side, while Radwine does most of the cooking. Bringuet said that GÜDgut.life has prepared more than 5,600 meals in the past year, but could do more.

"We'll just see how it goes," Bringuet said. "We really are not planning any massive growth. If we can provide local businesses with a wellness program, that's all the satisfaction we need." ♦



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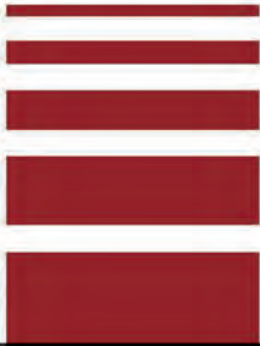
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2012 & 2013 St. John's Hospital

St. John's Hospital believes that the power of people makes the difference in patient care. They strive to create a warm, family-oriented work atmosphere in order to provide the best possible care for patients. St. John's Hospital also provides the staff with the latest tools to deliver excellent care in professional and nurturing work environment.



2012 Systemax Corporation

Systemax prides itself on its reputation for quality, dependability, and knowledgeable service. The staff is encouraged to work with management daily to create a better customer experience. Systemax promotes a professional and fun work environment to encourage employee commitment to excellent customer service one solution at a time.

2013 Kerber, Eck & Braechel LLP

Kerber, Eck & Braeckel operates under 21 partners and principal owners and includes more than 130 professionals. Although KEB focuses primarily on public accounting and management consultant services, it offers a wide range of other products to its clients including, but not limited to, information technology, retirement planning and even investment planning services.



2013 Sacred Heart-Griffin

Sacred Heart-Griffin's inception came from the merger of Sacred Heart Academy and Griffin High School in 1988. In that time, much has changed. The school has expanded with classroom additions, facility renovation and even a new multipurpose athletics stadium. But the core principle, the marrying of academic pursuit with a literal religious adherence, remains the same to this day.

2012 & 2013 St. John's Hospital

St. John's Hospital believes that the power of people makes the difference in patient care. They strive to create a warm, family-oriented work atmosphere in order to provide the best possible care for patients. St. John's Hospital also provides the staff with the latest tools to deliver excellent care in professional and nurturing work environment.



2014 Levi, Ray & Shoup, Inc.

Levi, Ray & Shoup (LRS) cares deeply for the community, but also for its employees. They donate to a different charity each week and regularly give employees appreciation gifts. LRS has a full, on-site gym for its employees and their families to use that is accessible 24 hours a day and even cater parties for employees to spend time together outside of the workplace.

2014 Prairie Eye Center

At Prairie Eye Center employees are given time off to donate eye services to charity and to assist low-income patients at SIU School of Medicine. They are also encouraged to support each other through hardships and celebrate with each other in times of prosperity. They offer their staff a multitude of benefits to make Prairie Eye Center a unique and fulfilling work experience.



2014 The Real Estate Group

The brokers at The Real Estate Group take the complicated task of purchasing a home and make it easy for the home buyer. They also donate time and resources to the community, volunteering with Springfield Sharefest to help local schools in need. The Group offers its employees flexible hours, a mentoring program, and a fun, light-hearted environment.

2015 County Market

The key to Niemann Foods success is its associate owners. Everyone is family, and this tone is set by Rich Niemann, Sr., company chairman. Niemann Foods, parent company to County Market, is a third-generation, independently operated, family-owned business. The company formally became an ESOP company 17 or 18 years ago, which Niemann said is the best thing they ever did.



2015 Green Family Stores

Green Family Stores believes in giving back to the community. The company started the Green Family Charitable Foundation and every month writes checks to local not-for-profit organizations. Among the organizations they support are: The Matthew Project, Catholic Charities, Salvation Army, Sparc, Boys and Girls Club, St. John's Hospital and youth football.

2015 Springfield Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company

A fourth-generation, family-owned business, Springfield Pepsi sponsors little league teams, softball teams and other types of youth athletics. John Faloon, President, says, "If someone's kid is on a ball team, it becomes a Pepsi team. It's important to me if it's important to them." The company has been in the Vecchie family since 1941 and currently employs 75 people.



2016 Henson Robinson Company



Henson Robinson has earned its reputation as a leader in the roofing, architectural sheet metal, heating, cooling, ventilation, plumbing, mechanical and special sheet metal fabrication industries. The company uses its success to give back to the community, regularly supporting local causes. Employees are rewarded for their hard work as they receive excellent benefits, opportunities for advancement, and annual celebrations.

2016 Horace Mann

Horace Mann's number one priority is taking care of its base as they help educators protect what they have today and prepare for a successful tomorrow. Employees are offered flexible work schedules and opportunities for advancement. The community benefits from their success as it supports many causes including United Way, Toys for Tots, and more.



2016 St. Joseph's Home



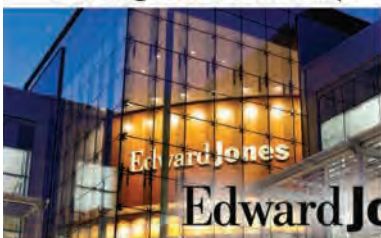
St. Joseph's Home provides high-quality and compassionate care for those who can no longer take care of themselves. The staff cares for the residents as if they were their own parents or grandparents, and are rewarded for their efforts in many ways including holiday parties and recognition on birthdays and anniversaries. Everyone there is like family.

2017 BUNN

Bunn allows employees paid time off for volunteering, with no cap on hours. Over the past 10 years, Bunn employees have logged 89,000 volunteer hours. "It's not just lip service, it's all about the people. That's what really makes a difference. Our people are really willing to do whatever it takes to create a good workplace and a good community." - Desiree Logsdon, SVP for Corporate Citizenship



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Edward Jones doesn't just oversee their clients' financial household, they take it a step further; diving deep to get to know their clients at a personal level. "I just enjoy working with people, helping them work toward and reach their goals. It's not just about the numbers here. It's about relationships." - Bree Heineman, Senior Branch Office Administrator

2017 Robert "Chick" Fritz Distributing, Inc.

The Fritz family stands behind its employees, resulting in very low turnover among staff. They offer a flexible work environment, and have retained the same ideals of friendliness and doing one thing well since the company was founded in 1947. "There's a good bunch of people here. Most of the people who are in this business have been in it for a long time. It's just one of those jobs you never want to quit." - Ron Adams, Sales



2017 SIU Medicine



Part of what has keeps employees at SIU for many years has been the school's commitment to quality research. The school is moving toward a "coaching model" that goes beyond mere head knowledge to produce well-rounded professionals. "There is such a team effort here. It's a great place to work, a fun place to work. I feel like everybody here is committed to doing the best job they can." - Jo Turley, Medical Staff Coordinator

2019 America Ambulance Services, Inc.

America Ambulance Services is a locally-owned and operated company since 1967, the oldest ambulance service in the Central Illinois area. In 2008, Susan Zappa purchased the company from the original owners, Terry and Faye Kirk. She has a background in nursing and when she saw the opportunity to purchase the company, she felt it would be the perfect fit for her.



2019 Country Lane Memory Care Assisted Living



Country Lane is not just another assisted living facility, but a small community of people supporting residents with Alzheimer's disease and dementia as if they were family. They started with roughly 15 employees and the business has now grown to a staff of 35. They are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, so it takes a lot of hard-working employees at all hours.

2019 Illinois Real Estate Title Center, LLC

When it comes to meeting customer needs, the team at the Title Center is accessible and solution-driven. They work together to address challenges and manage change, thriving in an environment that is productive, supportive, and fun. "The ideas and opinions of our employees are not only appreciated, but expected." - Dana Lyons, Vice President and Agency Manager



2019 Sacred Heart-Griffin



Sacred Heart-Griffin's inception came from the merger of Sacred Heart Academy and Griffin High School in 1988. In that time, much has changed. The school has expanded with classroom additions, facility renovation and even a new multipurpose athletics stadium. But the core principle, the marrying of academic pursuit with a literal religious adherence, remains the same to this day.

BEST PLACE



PHOTO BY TERRY FARMER PHOTOGRAPHY, INC.

COUNTRY LANE MEMORY CARE

BY ERIC WOODS

Cari Claussen started Country Lane Memory Care in 2016. She always had a passion to create quality care for elderly individuals.

"This drive to make a difference began when I visited my grandmother in a nursing home when I was just a teenager. My grandmother had cancer and had lost her ability to speak. I would arrive at the nursing home to find her alone, frightened and sitting for hours on a soiled chair pad because the staff neglected to properly care for her," said Claussen. "My heart broke as I witnessed the deplorable treatment, and I decided one day that I would be a strong voice for the elder population. My dream became a reality in 2015 when my father, Bruce Gillman, agreed to be my business partner as he, too, understood the importance of quality care for those with Alzheimer's disease and dementia. We chose to build Country Lane on a piece of family farm ground in Riverton, away from busy streets and noisy towns to provide a quiet country setting."

Country Lane started with roughly 15

employees and the business has now grown to a staff of 35. They are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, so it takes a lot of hard-working employees at all hours, according to Claussen. "We provide 24-hour licensed nursing as well as all other daily operations including activities, housekeeping, dietary, maintenance and office staff," she said.

According to Claussen, Country Lane is not just another assisted living facility, but a small community of people supporting residents with Alzheimer's disease and dementia as if they were family. "Country Lane cares about their residents," said Kourtney Cox, human resources and business office manager. "We make sure that we work together to make our residents feel special and taken care of. Our employees work as a team to make this the best place to work."

"Our goal is to take care of each resident as if they were our own family member," said Claussen. "Most of our employees have personal experiences where their loved one suffered from Alzheimer's. We get to have the best job of all and that is to make a difference in our residents' lives."

The company's main goal for the future is to continue providing the best quality care for residents. "We strive to keep our families happy and for them to have peace of mind that their loved one is well taken care of," said Claussen.

As the company continues to grow, so will the number of staff members. Claussen believes that a company is only as good as its employees, and it takes teamwork to be the best. She said that in the two years Country Lane has been open, it has received perfect scores from the state, which she attributes to the employees.

"My favorite part about working for this company is that everyone is so caring, and it feels like family. Our first priority every day is our residents," said Cox. "We all make sure the residents have what they need, from meals, companionship, baths, medication, etc. Cari is very caring and makes sure her business is run properly."

WE MAKE
SURE THAT
WE **WORK**
TOGETHER
TO MAKE
OUR
RESIDENTS
FEEL
SPECIAL

STOWORK



PHOTO BY TERRY FARMER PHOTOGRAPHY, INC.

SACRED HEART-GRIFFIN

BY ERIC WOODS

Sacred Heart-Griffin (SHG) has a proud history of providing a Catholic, secondary education for students. The school dates back to when the Springfield Dominican Sisters established Sacred Heart Academy in 1895. The Viatorian priests were asked by Bishop James Griffin to administer Cathedral Boys High School in 1930, which later became Griffin High School in 1959. In 1988, the schools merged to become Sacred Heart-Griffin High School, now in its 30th year, and continues to be sponsored by the Springfield Dominicans.

"Our tag line is 'Academic Excellence in a Community of Faith.' This is what makes SHG the best place to work," said Sr. Katherine O'Connor, president of SHG. "Academic excellence doesn't mean we only have 'A' students; it means they are working to be their best at whatever level they are. SHG encourages a culture of excellence among students, staff and faculty. Parents are very invested in the success of their students and are supportive of the school. Community of faith is evident by the care and concern that everyone at SHG shows for each other and for the

larger community."

"Sacred Heart-Griffin is more than a school or a place of business. We are a family. Our students and parents are extremely supportive, which makes what we do so enjoyable day-in and day-out," said Kara Rapacz, SHG principal. "The culture of the building is what truly sets this place apart from anywhere else I have ever been. Walking into the building each and every day has never felt like work. All of us love what

we do and support one another. It is a blessing to be part of this amazing faith-based community that we call SHG."

Each school year, a diverse student population is welcomed as the school focuses on strengthening their academic, social and spiritual development to better prepare them for life's challenges. "We combine a strong academic program with the latest technological advancements with the guidance of a dedicated faculty

to produce some of Illinois' top scholars," said Jennifer Bettis, director of advancement at SHG. "Above all else, our students become disciplined, civic-minded adults who have had the benefit of annual retreat experiences, including the Kairos retreat, daily theology classes that stretch their minds and strengthen their beliefs, monthly all-school Masses, daily prayer and the many intangible gifts that mark the true value of a Catholic, Dominican education."

SHG's challenging curriculum includes nine advanced placement courses, 21 honor courses and eight dual credit courses. Over the last four years, SHG graduates enrolled in 124 different colleges and universities, including Columbia, Northwestern, Notre Dame and the U.S. Military Academy. Plus, during their four-year high school careers, the graduating class of 2018 performed over 30,000 hours of community service. Also, 98 percent of the students in the class are college-bound and were offered more than \$12 million in merit-based scholarships.

"Sacred Heart-Griffin looks forward to providing a quality, Catholic, secondary education to many, many more generations of students," said Bettis.

OUR TAG LINE IS
ACADEMIC **EXCELLENCE**
IN A COMMUNITY **OF**
FAITH

BEST PLACE



PHOTO BY TERRY FARMER PHOTOGRAPHY, INC.

ILLINOIS REAL ESTATE TITLE CENTER

BY ERIC WOODS

The Illinois Real Estate Title Center opened in November of 2002 and is one of several affiliate-owned title agencies throughout the Eastern and Midwest corridors of the United States managed and underwritten by Investors Title. "One of the highest-grossing agencies in the Investors Title agency program, the hallmark of the Title Center's success, is their strong focus on superior customer service and operational efficiencies," said Dana Lyons, vice president and agency manager.

The Title Center is made up of team members whose main focus is to provide exceptional service to their customers. "Not only is it important for our staff to provide a positive experience to our customers, but we are also quick to brag on one another," said Lyons. "Although title insurance as a line of work may be considered somewhat serious, the work culture at the Title Center is fun and interesting." When it comes to meeting customer needs, Lyons says the team is accessible and solution-driven. They also work together to address challenges and manage change, and they thrive in an environment

that not just productive, but also supportive and fun.

Lyons loves working for the company and appreciates that the Title Center allows for forward-thinking and creativity. "The ideas and opinions of all of our employees are not only appreciated, but expected. When anyone sees a problem, the team is encouraged to work together to solve it," she said. "Over the years, our employees have identified underserved markets, and we have been able to expand in these markets mainly by building relationships with the local realtors and other customers and working to meet their needs. These efforts over the past 16 years have allowed us to grow from one office to six and from three employees to 24. Collaboration has been the key to our growth and success."

Employees of the Title Center are vocal about their fondness of the company as well. "I have been given the amazing opportunity to grow as an employee and grow as a person. They took a chance on me as I had never had a serious full-time job before, and I have been given so many opportunities to advance," said Sydney Garcia, who has been employed by

the Title Center for two years. "I am so thankful to be working for Dana and the Title Center; it helps that my co-workers are like my family now, too."

"My co-workers and management are always so understanding, encouraging and positive. Someone is always willing to explain and teach; I am always learning," said Kasey VanderMeersch. "Work isn't always easy, but it makes it easier when you enjoy your company. We all have the same goal, and that is to give the best customer service we can to our clients, and I think that shows."

The Title Center's goal for the future is strategic growth that enhances the ability to provide best-in-class service to more customers throughout the state of Illinois. "As part of our growth strategy, the Title Center is finalizing the acquisition of a Central Illinois title company, First Community Title (FCT). Merging FCT into the Title Center will add three branch offices and 11 talented and experienced employees to our team," said Lyons.

THE **WORK** CULTURE
AT THE TITLE
CENTER **IS FUN** AND
INTERESTING

STOWORK



PHOTO BY TERRY FARMER PHOTOGRAPHY, INC.

AMERICA AMBULANCE SERVICES

BY ERIC WOODS

America Ambulance Services is a locally-owned and operated company since 1967, the oldest ambulance service in the Central Illinois area. In 2008, Susan Zappa purchased the company from the original owners, Terry and Faye Kirk. Zappa has a background in nursing and when she saw the opportunity to purchase the company, she felt it would be the perfect fit for her. "I bought this company with the hopes of making a positive impact on the lives of those we serve, and I feel that in the past 10 years we have certainly done that," said Zappa.

The mission of America Ambulance is to be the best health care transport team in Central Illinois by providing multi-faceted, all-inclusive care to their patients. The company utilizes 10 ambulances, and all are staffed with at least one licensed paramedic and one licensed E.M.T. basic.

"Our goal at America Ambulance is to continue our commitment to making a difference in our patients' lives," said Zappa. "From our training, our participation in local events, our associations with local hospitals and EMS agencies and our

specialized transport teams, America Ambulance is invested in what we feel is the most important reason for our industry: the welfare of the community and its citizens."

The company also works with various institutions to help resolve issues caused by the national shortage of EMS personnel.

"We want to ensure that the great services we provide our communities are not jeopardized in the future due to lack of EMS personnel," said Zappa. "We are developing mentoring and recruitment programs that are geared towards exposing the younger generations to careers in emergency medical services."

Zappa feels that in addition to providing the

best care for their patients, it is just as important to provide for those she employs.

"It takes the dedication of our staff to be able to provide the excellent care that we do for our community, which has given us the reputation of being a professional, progressive, competent leader in emergency health care services," she said. "As dedicated as our employees are to those we serve, we at America take great pride in being just as dedicated to our employees. We strive to provide an atmosphere that provides opportunity for continued growth."

Some of the benefits offered by America Ambulance include tuition assistance and bonus programs. Employees are encouraged to con-

tinue their education, and the company provides flexible scheduling options that make it feasible to do so.

Zappa said, "We have some of the best people in the industry. In this line of work we have good days and bad, and during those bad days the person next to you can make all the difference in the world. We spend a lot of time together as we often work 24-hour shifts together. The people you work with here at America become your second family. We at America pride ourselves on providing a family like culture, it is part of who we are and one of the things that we feel sets us apart from other EMS companies."

WE AT AMERICA PRIDE OURSELVES
ON PROVIDING A **FAMILY** LIKE
CULTURE. IT **IS** PART OF **WHO WE**
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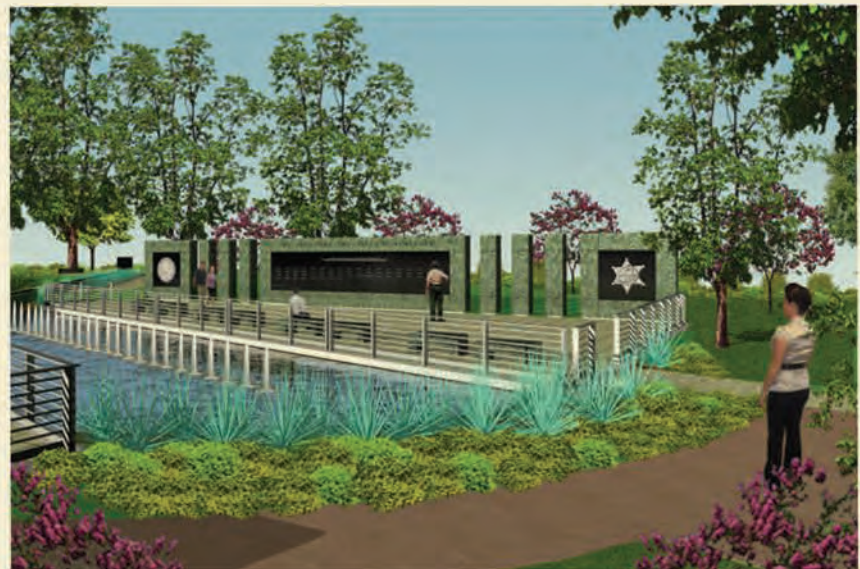
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-Bicentennial Plaza Photo By Carol Weems

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John Goetz,
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- Illinois State Police Memorial Park Photo Courtesy Knight E/A, Inc.



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Thinking outside the box

Repurposing large commercial spaces

BY RACHEL JOHNSON

Big box stores and large retail centers gradually changed American shopping habits, pulling customers away from small businesses and downtowns toward large parking lots conveniently located off highways and busy intersections. Customers in the latter half of the 20th century found discounts and one-stop shopping very convenient. Customers in the 21st century are finding online shopping from their homes even more convenient. Instead of running from one store to another looking for that perfect kitchen rug, shoppers can lounge in their pajamas and choose from hundreds online. It's difficult for malls and large discount stores to compete with endless product selection, price comparisons and 24/7 availability.

As these large stores close, communities struggle with how to fill them. "Our retail habits for decades have started to shift," said Eric Berglund, director of Land of Lincoln Economic Development. However, rather than focusing on filling specific spaces, Berglund looks at the bigger picture. "Demographics drive retail," he said.

Berglund and Valera Yazell, director of the City of Springfield's Office of Planning and Economic Development are working towards similar goals: creating jobs and getting more people to move to the area. "We're singing the same song," Yazell said. Both directors are approaching the issue with open minds. "It is time for us to think outside the box, literally, the big box," Yazell said. "We have to look at more lively restaurants, family entertainment. We have to look at a different mix."

Across the country, other communities have

creatively tackled the problem of finding new tenants for these large spaces with ample parking. Many former Walmarts and Kmarts have become call centers, municipal buildings or family entertainment centers. This satisfies owners who desire rent-paying tenants, although city officials would prefer retail tenants and the sales tax revenues these businesses generate for the community.

Sam Nichols, managing broker of True Commercial Real Estate, owns a local strip mall with medical and insurance businesses anchored by a restaurant. "As an owner, I don't really care. It's full right now," he said.

Of the three local Shop 'n Save stores recently sold to Supervalu, only one has been bought. Niemann Foods, Inc. took over the Dirksen Parkway location and turned it into a County Market. The two remaining buildings are owned locally by the Kent family. The North



Jerome village president Mike Lopez stands in front of the recently vacated Shop 'n Save store at the busy intersection of Wabash Avenue and Chatham Road.

PHOTO BY RACHEL JOHNSON

Grand Avenue location will be tough to fill, according to Curtis Tillett, a broker with Coldwell Banker Commercial. "It doesn't have the traffic flow and the rooftops," he said.

The other site, at the busy intersection of Wabash Avenue and Chatham Road, should be less of a problem. Mike Lopez, president of the village of Jerome, acknowledges rumors that there are various parties looking at it. "For decades, that corner has been an anchor for Jerome," he said.

Ideally, Lopez would like to fill the space with a retail business. "It does have an impact on our bottom line, probably about six figures — anywhere from \$120,000-130,000 a year, potentially. It has a residual impact on us also. It is a village water customer. Without people using that business for business operations, we're losing water revenues also," Lopez said.

White Oaks Mall is dealing with two large vacancies due to the recent closings of Sears and Bergner's. While Simon Properties owns the mall, the two vacant spaces are owned by the previous tenants, limiting the ability of mall manager Clay Emerich to move forward with any plans. Sears is currently undergoing a company-wide restructuring. The former Bergner's space will be up for auction, along with other Bon-Ton stores, at the end of January.

However, Emerich and representatives from the City of Springfield have met with a team from Simon Properties that travels to different sites around the country to brainstorm ideas with local management. Yazell said she feels optimistic about the future of White Oaks Mall, and local broker and developer Sam Nichols concurs. "Simon Group is a pretty powerful engine," said Nichols. "They have a lot of resources. They do make their buildings adaptive to the market, and I think the mall is going to stay viable."

Both Yazell and Berglund are optimistic and keeping their eyes on the long game. "We're focused on how we get more employers here to be able to stabilize the population and get population growth again," Berglund said. "What we do to support retail is we focus on new job creation and people moving here. One of the strengths we have in this area is that we have a highly educated work force and good household incomes."

The retail landscape is shifting everywhere, and Sangamon County is no exception. People will still shop, eat at restaurants and indulge in various forms of entertainment, although where and how may change.

"I feel good about the potential for development in 2019," Yazell said. ♦

Big box stores seek reduction in property tax bills

Nationwide, large retail stores are pursuing a legal tactic known as the "dark store theory" to shrink their property tax bills, potentially affecting community revenues. Currently, several communities in other states are being sued by brick-and-mortar stores such as Walmart, Target, Home Depot, Kohl's and Walgreens, who contend that the best way to appraise their property is to look at the sale prices of vacant stores on the open market. The businesses want the municipalities to reduce assessed values to reflect the market price of these unoccupied buildings. This threatens the ability of municipalities to maintain or raise operating funds, potentially causing homeowners and small businesses to pay more to maintain services such as schools, police departments, garbage pick-up and road repairs.



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|---|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| 1 | United Contractors Midwest, Inc. 3151 Robbins Road Springfield, IL 62704 | 217-546-6192 217-546=1904 ucm.biz contact@ucm.biz | 170 | Robert Bruner, Pres.; Mike Cullinan, Chairman | Asphalt Paving, Concrete Paving, Bridge Building, Earthwork | 15 | Springfield: construction of an underpass to carry the Norfolk Southern Railway Company over Laurel Street between 8th Street and 11th Street and the construction of an underpass to carry the Norfolk Southern Railway Company over Ash Street between 6th Street and 10th Street. Includes earth excavation, structure construction and roadway improvements. Resurfacing of Woodside Road from west of IL 4 to east of Old Chatham Road. Includes HMA surface paving, earth excavation, structure construction and construction of concrete median. | 2001 |
| 2 | O'Shea Builders 3401 Constitution Drive Springfield, IL 62711 | 217-522-2826 888-930=2009 osheabuilders.com info@osheabuilders.com | 145 | Michael E. O'Shea, Pres.; David L. "Bud" O'Shea, CEO | Design-Build, Construction Management, General Contracting | 70 | LRS Campus Expansion, Memorial Medical Center Expansion, Springfield Clinic First - 900 Building, Springfield Municipal Parking Garage, Altorfer Inc., Fresh Visions Church, HSHS St. John's Women and Children's Center Pediatric Floor Renovation, Champaign School District High School Renovations, Passavant Area Hospital Renovations, Pana Community Hospital Addition. | 1902 |
| 3 | Halverson Construction Co., Inc. 620 N. 19th St. Springfield, IL 62702 | 217-753-0027 217-753=1904 halversonconstruction.com hbid@halversonconstruction.com | 100 | Steven Halverson, Pres.; Larry Antonacci, VP; Kyle Zellers, VP | General Contracting, Bridges, Commercial/ Industrial Construction, Construction Management, Steel Erection, Pre-Cast | 30 | Meredosia Bridge, Archer Elevator Road Roundabout, Carpenter Street Underpass for Springfield Rail Improvement Project, 9th Street Underpass for Union Pacific Railroad, Springfield Airport Hangars 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 and the FBO Building, UIS Public Affairs Center, Westside Christian Church, Lincoln Land Community College, Illinois Department of Revenue, and Steel Erection for the following: U of I Performance Center and Design Center and ISU Bone Center. | 1978 |
| 4 | Sangamo Construction 2100 E. Moffat Springfield, IL 62702 | 217-544-9871 217-544=9873 sangamo.net office@sangamo.net | 50 | Allan Reyhan, Jr.; Matthew P. Reyhan | Bridge/Highway Construction | 20 | I-74 10 structures overlay, Spfld: Ridge Ave. HSRR crossing, East Lake Shore structure rehab, US 50 three structures rehab; IL 15 structure rehab. City of Springfield street repairs; Galesburg Farnham Rd./BNSF Railway street; Vandalia I-70/CSX Railway street; Quincy Fall Creek street rehab; Bushnell LaMoine River street replacement; Decatur US 36/51 interchange street rehab. | 1990 |
| 5 | R. D. Lawrence Construction Co., Ltd. 603 N. Amos Ave. Springfield, IL 62702 | 217-787-1384 217-787=3856 rdlawrence.com info@rdlawrence.com | 45 | John Goetz | General Contracting, De- sign-Build, Commercial, Industrial, Restorations, Remodels, Additions | 60 | Illinois Executive Mansion Renovation, MacMurray College Jane Hall renovation, Adjutant General's Office Building plumbing and circulation renovation, Illinois Realtors Bicentennial Plaza, North Green Jr./Sr. high school renovation; Bluffs elementary and Jr./ Sr. high school renovation; Illinois State Police memorial. | 1984 |
| 6 | Jones-Blythe Construction Co. 1030 W. Reynolds St. Springfield, IL 62702 | 217-787-1640 217-787=1666 jones-blythe.com jblythe@jones-blythe.com | 40 | John F. Blythe | Design-Build, General Contractor, Construction Management, Industrial Construction | 60 | St. John's Hospital, Enbridge Pipeline, Pumping and Delivery Stations, Tallgrass Natural Gas Compressor Stations. | 1930 |
| 7 | Evans Construction 1900 E. Washington St. Springfield, IL 62703 | 217-525-1456 217-525=2886 evansconst.com don@evansconst.com | 30 | Donald Evans, Pres. | General Contracting, Construction Management, Design/Build, Commercial/Industrial Construction | 60 | Springfield: Memorial Medical Center, SMTD Site Development, KEB New Office, AT&T Renovations; Taylorville: Memorial Hospital, St Mary's School Addition, Jacksonville: Jacksonville Middle School, Decatur: Dick Van Dyke Remodel, Our Savior School; Quincy: Insurance Office Renovations, Springfield: Here Today retail store, SMTD site work, AT&T Hazel Dell remodel & site work. Jacksonville: Jacksonville Middle School, Our Savior School. Decatur: Dick Van Dyke Appliance Store. | 1913 |
| 8 | Siciliano, Inc. 3601 Winchester Road Springfield, IL 62707 | 217-585-1200 217-585=1211 sicilianoinc.com buildit@sicilianoinc.com | 15 | Richard E. Lawrence, Pres.; Kim Lawrence, Sec. | General Contractor, Historical Restoration, Design-Build, Commercial/Industrial Construction, Site Work | 15 | Historical restoration Booth-Bateman/Kennedy-Ferguson Building downtown Springfield, IL; AMEREN Services – Multiple projects throughout state; State Retirement Systems new security upgrades, Logan County Housing Authority, SIU School of Medicine. | 1968 |



John Slayton inside the Coliseum building.

PHOTO BY DAVID BLANCHETTE

Renovations underway at fairgrounds

BY LINDSEY SALVATELLI

Necessary renovations taking place at the Coliseum at the Illinois State Fairgrounds are expected to be completed by July 20, but the impact of the two years it was out of commission may have long-lasting effects.

R.D. Lawrence Construction Co., which was selected to renovate the crumbling Coliseum, is putting in 20-hour days to meet the July deadline, but it's yet to be known if some of the more popular events that have made an appearance at the fairgrounds over the years will be back.

Scott Dahl, Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau interim director, said there are plans to make calls to organizers who haven't been back to the fairgrounds since the Coliseum closed in 2016, but he intends to wait to make sure renovations will be completed by the target date. "They will be contacted shortly to follow up, once the renovations are completed," Dahl said. "We don't want to jump too soon."

Dahl said it's difficult to determine how much

effect the two-year pause will have in the long run, but the loss of a single show, the World Conformation Horse Association, took hundreds of thousands of dollars from the city. Dahl said organizers "expressed concerns and wouldn't return until the Coliseum was repaired and renovated."

Warren Goetsch, Illinois Department of Agriculture interim director, said the closure of the Coliseum did cause organizers "for about a half a dozen of the shows" to leave during the first year the building closed down but many returned the following year and utilized other building at the fairgrounds.

Despite not losing the events, Goetsch said there's little doubt there was an economic impact felt by hospitality and food businesses as well as select retailers. "The challenge of state government, in general, is the time it takes to get something done," Goetsch said. "We've been working on this for quite some time, but we're right on the cusp of showing some progress here."

The *Springfield Business Journal* reported

in August that the Illinois General Assembly set aside \$30 million in capital appropriations last spring, but it's been estimated that it will cost around \$180 million to complete all needed repairs between the Illinois State Fairground and Du Quoin State Fair ("State Fairgrounds seek money for a makeover," David Blanchette, August 2018).

Former governor Bruce Rauner made a \$1 million donation to the Illinois Fairgrounds Foundation in August, specifically for renovations to be made to the Coliseum. John Slayton, Illinois Fairground Foundation chair, said the money was immediately put to use resurfacing thoroughways.

Donations from Gov. J.B. Pritzker's inaugural ball are also expected to go to the Illinois Fairgrounds Foundation. Though he has yet to receive any of the proceeds, Slayton said he's been told he can anticipate at least \$250,000.

Changes being made to the Coliseum aren't just limited to updating the building. After receiving 80 submissions for a naming competition among students involved in Illinois-4H and Illinois

Future Farmers of America (FFA), Slayton said it's been decided the Coliseum will now be named the Coliseum of Champions.

R.D. Lawrence Construction was awarded the contract Jan. 4, according to state procurement contracts. Slayton said the first proposal sent out to secure contractors had zero bidders. "I think everybody thought it couldn't be done by July 20," Slayton explained.

Goetz said there were two other contractors bidding on the recently secured proposal, one from Springfield and the other from Peoria, but his business was chosen to rebuild the roof, among other renovation efforts.

"It's going to take a lot of good coordination and the good Lord watching over us," Goetz said.

Lindsey Salvatelli is an editorial intern with Illinois Times as part of the Public Affairs Reporting master's degree program at University of Illinois Springfield. Contact her at intern@illinoistimes.com.



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| LAND DEVELOPMENT 2334 S Grand Ave East Springfield 1.2 Acres Lots Zoned R2 | LEASED 3788 Wabash Springfield | AVAILABLE Foxx Creek Development Lots Chatham Lots .64 to 6.12 Acres Zoned B-1 and B-2 | SOLD 1109 Hickox Dr Lincoln | LAND DEVELOPMENT 10-20 Kemp Drive Chatham 0.7 Acres, Lots Zoned I-1 |
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| John Clark | Real Estate Group | 3701 W. Wabash, Springfield, IL 62711 | johnbclarkrealtor@yahoo.com | 217-787-7000 | | 217-787=7779 |
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| Jeffrey Hamrick | Re/Max Professionals | 2475 W. Monroe, Springfield, IL 62704 | Hamrick1@comcast.net | 217-787-7215 | 217-741-1961 | |
| Richard Hohmann | Hohmann Agency | 1850 W. Morton, Jacksonville, IL 62650 | Rich@HohmannAgency.com | 217-245-6166 | | 217-245=6167 |
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| | NAME / ADDRESS | PHONE / FAX WEBSITE / EMAIL | NUMBER OF FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES | PARTNERS / PRINCIPALS | UNION AFFILIATED | RECENT NOTABLE PROJECTS | YEAR EST'D |
|---|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| 1 | Anderson Electric, Inc. 3501 Sixth St. Hwy. W. Suite #1 Springfield, IL 62703 | 217-529-5471 217-529-0412 anderson-electric.com wesa@anderson-electric.com | 200 | Employee Owned | Yes | SIU Simmon's Cancer Center, Porta High School - Wind Turbine Project, Illinois Primary Healthcare, Concordia Village various projects, White Oaks Mall rehab, First United Methodist Church, SMTD, St. John's Hospital reroute systems and demo, Spring Creek Water Treatment Plant, CWLP contract 3 pump stations, Passavant Hospital medical office building, Meijer renovation, Ball Elementary addition - Chatham, Memorial Medical Center surgery expansion & patient care tower. | 1918 |
| 2 | B & B Electric, Inc. 3000 Reilly Drive Springfield, IL 62703 | 217-528-9666 217-528-5481 bnbelectric.net todd@bnbelectric.net | 88 | Todd M. Brinkman, Tim Brinkman | Yes | Springfield: Levi Ray and Shoup (LRS); Kidzeum; CMT- Solar; Heartland Credit Union, State Capitol / Supreme Court / PCCC renovations, Kindred Healthcare, Memorial Medical Center, Springfield Clinic First - North, St. John's Sixth St. - Lincolnshire, New Orthopedic Center, LLCC - Workforce Center, Prairie Diagnostic Center, New Vision Care, Sacred Heart-Griffin addition, YMCA, Glenwood Elementary School; Lincoln: A. Lincoln Memorial Hospital and Office Building; Jacksonville: Passavant Hospital; Taylorville: Taylorville Memorial Hospital, Medical Office Building, MMC- Learning Center, Altorfer, and Calvary Church. | 1962 |
| 3 | Egizii Electric, Inc. 3009 Singer Ave. Springfield, IL 62703 | 217-528-4001 217-528-1677 eeiholding.com kpaoni@eeiholding.com | 68 | Robert W. Egizii | Yes | Dallman Generating Station (CWLP) President Abraham Lincoln Museum, Kennedy Space Center, Boeing Aircraft, Wilkes Barre, Prairie Power Service Contract, Ameren Service Contract, MSM Service Contract, Washington Park Bridge Replacement, Litchfield Airport, Quincy Airport, Veteran's Parkway Rehab, Wabash Avenue Widening, Meredosia Bridge, Mt. Sterling Municipal Airport, Carlinville Shipman Blacktop, Dirksen Parkway Signals, Standford Avenue Signals, Morton Avenue Signals, State of Illinois Electrical Maintenance, IDOR Security Integrator, Bright New day Investments, UIS Data Center, Senate Hearing Room 212, Logan Correctional Center – Hi Voltage, Lincoln High Speed Rail, CWLP Facility Improvements, CWLP Igniter Construction. | 1967 |
| 4 | Senergy Electric, Inc. 509 North Elm Williamsville, IL 62693 | 217-566-2826 217-566-2827 www.senergy-electric.com info@senergy-electric.com | 33 | Matthew J. Giacomini, Brandon M. Keafer | Yes | Community Hospital addition and renovation - Pana, Cultivation Center - Chambersburg, PA., HSHS St. Francis renovation, MMC SIU Center for Family Medicine, The Villas Senior Care addition - Sherman, MMC OR renovations, St. Paul's Lutheran Church Early Learning Center, Obed & Isaac's Microbrewery & Eatery - Peoria, Iles Elementary School renovation & HVAC upgrade. | 2014 |
| 5 | Ryan Electrical Solutions 4151 W. Jefferson Springfield, IL 62702 | 217-698-4877 217-698-8481 ryanelectricalsolutions.com dennis@ryanelectricalsolutions.com | 30 | Dennis Ryan | No | Various commercial, residential and audio visual projects. agriculture. backup and portable generator sales, installation and services. | 1995 |
| 6 | Ruby Electric 341 S. Meadowbrook Road Springfield, IL 62711 | 217-787-4949 217-787-2043 rubyelectric.com johnruby@rubyelectric.com | 25 | John Ruby | No | Various commercial and residential projects, standby generator systems commercial and residential. | 1978 |
| 7 | Lindsey Electric 3260 Terminal Ave. Springfield, IL 62707 | 217-544-6789 217-544-9591 lindsey-electric.com lori@lindsey-electric.com | 12 | Catherine A. Lindsey - pres., J. Michael Lindsey - v.p., Lori A. Lindsey Von Behren - corp. sec. | Yes | Various commercial and residential projects. | 1972 |
| 8 | Jim Watts Electric 2801 E. Sangamon Ave. Springfield, IL 62702 | 217-652-9950 www.jimwattselectric.com wattselectric1@yahoo.com | 10 | Jim Watts | No | McDonald's, Fresenius Kidney Center, Walgreens, Best Buy, Target, Ashley Furniture, Dollar General, Tri City Library, Dunkin Donuts, and various residential and commercial generators, and installation, security systems. | 2011 |
| 8 | Mansfield Electric Co. 4425 N. Peoria Road Springfield, IL 62702 | 217-523-0811 217-528-3111 ed@mansfield-electric.com | 10 | H. Edward Midden, III | Yes | Sangamon County Complex, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, UIS - University Hall, The Bridge Short Stay Nursing Home, Enos Elementary School, Hy-Vee. | 1949 |
| 8 | Prairie State Plumbing & Heating 3900 N. Peoria Road Springfield, IL 62702 | 217-636-9000 217-636-8927 | 10 | Jerry Judd | Yes | Virginia School District, Springfield Pepsi, LRS, SIU School of Medicine, Brown County Schools, Illinois Veterans' Home, Springfield Metro Sanitary District, IDOT Warehouse buildings, IDOT, IDNR, University of IL, LLCC, Generac Generators installs, and various commercial and residential upgrades, repairs and remodels. | 2005 |
| 9 | Carmean Electric Inc. 2863 Singer Ave. Springfield, IL 62703 | (217) 789-1155 (217) 789-9578 carneanelectricofspringfield.com carneanelectric@gmail.com | 3 | Wayne Shephard | Yes | Various residential and commercial projects. Maintenance, new wiring, re-wiring, utility work, solar design and installation, LED lighting. | 1970 |



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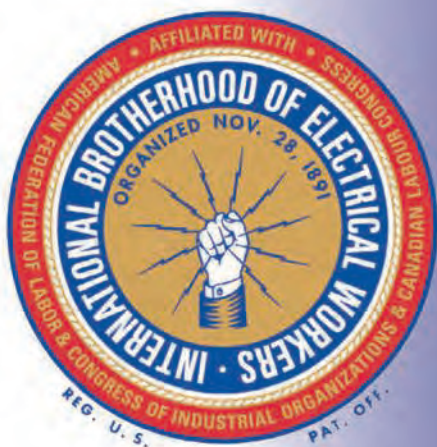
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Taylor Studios is in the business of storytelling

BY CATHERINE O'CONNOR

Taylor Studios, Inc. is an interpretive exhibit planning, fabrication and design company based in Rantoul, Illinois. The company is headed by Betty Brennan, a powerhouse of ideas who embodies the term “entrepreneurial spirit.” Beginning more than 25 years ago with a “kitchen table artifact reproduction business,” Brennan has built one of the nation’s top companies, in an industry that caters to the unique niche market of storytelling through exhibit display.

Nearly three decades ago, Brennan started out with a graduate degree in business and a love of the outdoors and history. Brennan and her husband were fortunate enough to transform what was once little more than a hobby of reproducing artifacts for colleagues and associates who worked in the fields of paleontology and archeology, into a professional enterprise. But Brennan’s professional path has been an adventure which also taught her much about relationship building.

In a June 2015 issue of *Success* magazine, Brennan said, “I started this company in 1991 with my husband, and we were 50-50 partners at the time. Our marriage ended about five years later, but we were still effective business partners and good friends.”

Brennan reached an important goal in 2000, when Taylor Studios made the *Inc.* 500 list, and the magazine pointed out that 7.9 percent of that year’s *Inc.* 500 CEO’s had gotten a divorce since founding their companies. In a short sidebar titled, “Divorce, Entrepreneurial Style,” the *Inc.* article posed it like this, “It’s hard enough growing a company with your husband or wife. Imagine doing it with your ex!”

Remarkably, that is what the former wife and

husband team were able to do. Despite the tension of changing roles and conflicts over project and personnel management involved in the split, the founders ran the thriving company together for 10 years after their divorce, while Betty gradually took over ownership, completing the buyout



A woolly mammoth reproduction prepares to travel to its final destination in Wisconsin.

PHOTO COURTESY TAYLOR STUDIOS

in 2006.

As Brennan told *Success*, “The key was that we both wanted to end the partnership as well as preserve the friendship. Today I am in frequent contact with him...I will call him with questions about clients or past jobs, and we still talk business.”

It is obvious that Brennan takes the business of creating timeless exhibits for museums, corporate entities and nature centers throughout the country, and beyond, very seriously. She has coordinated and facilitated over 480 projects, each one ranging from \$500 to over \$3 million, since 1991. As president and owner, Brennan

stays busy implementing the company’s strategic goals and objectives, producing a timely and relevant blog on a wide range of topics, all while providing direction and leadership to employees, freelancers and teams collaborating to achieve the company’s philosophy, mission and strategy.

a central theme using various media and producing a focused and coherent interpretive project that keep visitors engaged.

Taylor Studios has contributed to exhibits and displays throughout the United States and beyond, including the Newseum in Washington, D.C., the Bermuda Underwater Exploration Institute, Chicago’s Adler Planetarium, Dauphin Island Sea Lab in Alabama, the California ScienCenter in Los Angeles, the National Park Service Civil War Interpretive Center in Shiloh, Tennessee, as well as the Lincoln Heritage Museum at Lincoln College in Lincoln, Illinois.

Taylor Studios recently helped its home community of Rantoul to tell their unique story and create a vision for a vibrant future. Like many communities, modern market forces and technology had shifted the community’s perception of itself.

“The brand may have just been forgotten after the Air Force base closed and enthusiasm waned...We believe the community’s stories are what make it special,” explained Brennan. Her project involved reaching out to gather personal reflections, inventorying core values, cultural and historic assets and then creating a way to interpret past, present and future, to improve community outcomes and attract visitor interest. ♦

Independent journalist Catherine O’Connor actively seeks out interesting people and companies in the community and region who are making a positive impact on the business environment and world at large. Having the opportunity to share the dynamic story of Betty Brennan and the evolution of Taylor Studios was an enriching experience that shed light on the importance of finesse in handling professional as well as personal relationships.

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Jacksonville Regional Economic Development Corporation tries a new approach

BY HOLLY WHISLER

The Jacksonville Regional Economic Development Corporation (JREDC) has a new staff member and a new approach to the organization's structure. On Jan. 2, Kristin Van Aken Jamison became the vice president of marketing and communications for JREDC. She joins Bonni Waters, a veteran of JREDC and vice president of operations. Together, the two will report directly to Dusty Douglas, JREDC chairman, and the JREDC board. There will no longer be a person in the president's seat. Some are wondering how such a unique organizational structure will work. However, if you ask Jamison and Waters, it's working quite well already. Waters says, "We're going to make things happen!"

Why the change in JREDC's structure? Waters, who has worked with a number of past presidents of JREDC said, "After the previous president left, the board and leadership of our organization didn't necessarily feel we needed another president, but rather, someone who specializes in marketing and communications, and with my background being in information gathering, including site, building and data collection, that would work."

It was important to the leadership that the new staff member not only possess specialty skills in marketing and communications, but that person be vested in Jacksonville and the region JREDC serves. All of those attributes were found in Jamison. She is a Jacksonville native and a graduate of Illinois College who has worked with her alma mater's development team for the past 12 years. Jamison has also been active in the community, serving in volunteer roles with the Jacksonville Convention

and Visitors Bureau, Jacksonville Main Street, the Art Association of Jacksonville and Passavant Hospital, among others.

Waters is also a Jacksonville native who has proven her commitment to JREDC and is looking forward to collaborating with Jamison well into the future. Jamison said, "Bonni and I have complementary skill sets. I like the marketing and communications aspect of this position, being out (in the community) and promoting the region. Bonni has decades of experience in economic development and data gathering that's so important. Together, we are a strong team. We have a good feel for what each other is better suited for, and Bonni is teaching me institutional information."

Waters agreed that Jamison is a natural at networking and Waters likes to be behind the scenes. It seems the two vice presidents have delineated their roles and agree they are there to support each other and the mission of JREDC: to retain, expand, create and recruit



Kristin Van Aken Jamison

PHOTO COURTESY JREDC

job opportunities for Morgan and Scott Counties.

Although Jamison has been in her role at JREDC for a very short time, she and Waters have made great strides in sketching out goals for the organization. Waters said, "We have an idea of the direction we want to go – having a face for JREDC in the community. We've had a hard time with that in the past. Growing the region. Getting the information out there of who we are and what we do.

We've struggled with that in the past, also." Jamison said, "My short-term goal is to gain as much information as I can, and Bonni will be huge with that. In the very near future, I'll start setting up meetings with our investors so that I have a better understanding of their history with the organization and how they want to move forward."

Looking down the road, Jamison said, "For me, looking at the marketing and communication side of things, long-term would be to

re-tool or re-energize the way we reach people. We need to update the website and work with social media platforms that are reaching businesses and employers and bringing things up to speed. Creating a regional branding and marketing campaign will be important and there will be much conversation on how to do that with the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce, our Main Street program, the Convention and Visitors Bureau, the City of Jacksonville and the counties of Morgan and Scott. How do we make sure we're all represented the way we want to be represented?"

Retaining and expanding business for the region is an ever-present goal for the JREDC. Plans for making this happen were unveiled last year in the Regional Economic Development Plan. This Plan outlines strategies for attracting private and public business to the region; retaining and expanding businesses; and working on workforce development.

Another key element of the Plan is to strengthen the workforce by working with the colleges. Jamison said, "We have two liberal arts colleges and two community colleges. We're working with those students to develop skill sets that are needed in various industries in this area."

Retaining, attracting and expanding business and industry in the City of Jacksonville and the counties of Scott and Morgan sounds like a great deal of work, but Jamison and Waters have experience and enthusiasm, along with some guiding principles. Jamison said, "It's not transactional, it's relationship building. It takes time to build these relationships."

"We serve everyone – investor or not. What's good for the region is good for everyone," said Waters. ♦





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| | NAME / ADDRESS | PHONE / FAX (=) WEBSITE / EMAIL | NUMBER OF FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES | PARTNERS / PRINCIPALS | TYPES OF SERVICES | RECENT NOTABLE PROJECTS | YEAR EST'D |
|---|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| 1 | Henson Robinson Company Petersburg Plumbing and Excavating 3550 Great Northern Ave. Springfield, IL 62711 | 217-544-8451 217-544=0829 henson-robinson.com hrc@henson-robinson. com | 280 | Dan Hoselton, President HRC Brian Vogt, President PPE/ Exc. VP HRC Joe Kulek, CFO/Executive HRC | Commercial HVAC, Roofing, Plumbing, Piping, Refrigeration, Architectural Sheet Metal, HVAC/Plumbing Service, Sewer and Water Mains, Excavation, Residential Heating and Cooling Installation and Service, residential plumbing service, directional boring, sewer cleaning/TV inspection. | U of I Champaign, ISU, UIS, Winchester, Northpoint, South Central, Springfield Public Schools, Ball/Chatham, North Green, SHG, Normal, Taylorville, Jacksonville, North Mac. Medical: St. John's, Memorial, Blessing, Springfield Clinic, Prairie Eye Clinic. Government: Governor's Mansion, IDOT, IDOC, Illinois State Police, IEMA, Camp Lincoln, CMS, Secretary of State, CWLP, Springfield, Chatham, Taylorville, Jacksonville. Various: Caterpillar, State Farm, White Oaks Mall, NAPA, St. Clara's, Bunn, Panda, Walmart, Villas Senior Care. | 1861 |
| 2 | E. L. Pruitt 3090 Colt Road Springfield, IL 62707 | 217-789-0966 217-789=2694 elpruitt.com | 262 | John Pruitt | HVAC, Plumbing, Architectural Sheet Metal | Memorial Medical Center, St. John's Hospital, Springfield Clinic, University of Illinois at Springfield, Millikin University, Akorn, ADM, Bridgestone Firestone, Decatur Park District, Crown, Cork & Seal, Passavant Area Hospital, Jacksonville Water Treatment, Pioneer, Concordia Village, Kidzeum, Pana Hospital, White Oaks Mall, LRS, St. Francis Convent , HSHS, Hershey Towers, North Mac School District, Lincoln Land Community College, SIU Center of Family Medicine, Prairie Eye, 9/11 Decatur Memorial, WICS/WICD, Franklin School, Taylorville Memorial Hospital , Home Goods, Big Lots , Gypsy Soul, Ayers Mansion, Centre @ 501, CFT Plaza, Sherwood Plaza, Springfield Art Association , State of Illinois , Brandt Consolidation, Camp Lincoln, Bunn Gourmet, Sky Zone, Here Today, Anderson Electric , BCBS, Goddard School, Core Life Eatery, Goodwill. | 1971 |
| 3 | F. J. Murphy & Son, Inc. 1800 Factory Ave. Springfield, IL 62702 | 217-528-4081 217-528=4147 fjmurphy.com cfricke@fjmurphy.com | 75 | Chad Fricke | Plumbing, Heating, Cooling, Fire Sprinklers, Refrigeration, Restaurant Equipment, Ice Machines, residential, commercial, institutional, installation and repair | Illinois Supreme Court, Illinois School for the Deaf, Jacksonville Development Center, Regency Nursing Home, Dept. of Agriculture, SEIU Offices, White House/Black Market, H.H. Gregg, White Oaks Mall, The Icing, Hot Topic, U of I Champaign, UIS, Western IL University, Eastern IL University, IL State University, Memorial Hospital, SIU Edwardsville, SIU Carbondale, Caterpillar Peoria, Preckwinkle Home upgrade, hundreds of small repair and remodel projects - residential and commercial. | 1947 |
| 4 | Prairie State Plumbing & Heating 3900 Peoria Road Springfield, IL 62702 | 217-636-9000 217-636-8927 www.prairiestateinc.com jjudd@prairiestateinc.com | 40 | Jerry Judd | Plumbing, Heating, Cooling, Electical, Mechanical, Sitework, Ventilation | IDOT/Meredosia Bridge; University Of IL Springfield; LLC; and various commercial and residential upgrades, repairs and remodels. | 2005 |
| 4 | Airmasters - Commercial Mechanical Contractor 1330 North Grand Ave. West Springfield, IL 62702 | 217-522-9793 217-522=7293 theairmasters.com rmathews@theairmasters. com | 40 | Robert Mathews | Commercial Mechanical Contractor, HVAC/R, Sheet Metal | St. Johns Hospital - Life Safety Upgrades; St. Mary's Hospital - IT Upgrades; White Oaks Mall - Auntie Anne's; White Oaks Mall - Kay Jeweler Remodel; Fiducial - Remodel Laurel United Methodist - Chiller Park Place - Boiler; First Congregational Church - VRV; System Prairie Power - IT Upgrades; Christian Village - Replacements; Casey's General Stores - Service, Replacements and New Construction, Illinois Municipal League – HVAC; First Presbyterian Church – Chiller; DCFS – Chiller; Fields Wright Medical - Boiler and A/C. | 1993 |
| 5 | Mike Williams Plumbing and Heating 3225 E. Clearlake Springfield, IL 62712 | 217-753-4545 217-753=4548 mikewilliams.net csr1@mikewilliams.net | 35 | Lewis Williams | HVAC, Heating, Air Conditioning and Plumbing | Heating, air conditioning and plumbing, residential service and repair and pre-season maintenance tune-up. | 1976 |
| 6 | Allied Plumbing & Heating, Inc. 1315 Wabash Ave. Springfield, IL 62704 | 217-698-5500 217-698=5505 alliedpnh.com mark.miller@alliedpnh.com | 30 | Mark Miller | HVAC/plumbing residential new construction, HVAC residential/ light commercial replacement, HVAC/plumbing light commercial new construction, HVAC/plumbing residential and light commercial service, lawn irrigation service. | St. George apartments, Heartland Dental, strip mall build outs, Rush Trucks, several residential new homes, Xcessories Squared, residential/light commercial replacements. | 1977 |
| 7 | Aire Serv HRI Plumbing 560 North St. Springfield, IL 62704 | 217-523-8594 217-243=7002 aireserv.com/cil aireserv@as-hri.com | 20 | Chris Williams, Jennifer Williams | Residential, commercial, and industrial service for HVAC equipment and ductwork. Indoor air quality, including duct cleaning. Commercial kitchen and refrigeration, including ice machines, coolers, and freezers. Chillers, boilers, and geothermal. Plumbing for residential and light commercial. | Cargill, Jacksonville High School - building automation; Ill. Coalition Against Domestic Violence - rooftop units; Ill. Dept. of Human Services, Casey's General Stores, multiple local banks and restaurants; multiple residential projects. | 1985 |
| 8 | Central Illinois York, Inc. 1210 E. Laurel Springfield, IL 62703 | 217-522-3371 217-522=1341 york321@aol.com | 6 | Bruce Ruyle | Commercial, Residential, Heating, AC, Ventilation, Sheet Metal | Midwest Technical Institute, Andrews Engineering, Kerasotes Theaters - Parkway Pointe; Midwest Technical Institute Peoria; Eagles Club, Riverton; Holiday Inn, Baton Rouge, Maryville Manor; City of Salem, Ill.; Staab Funeral Home. | 1940 |



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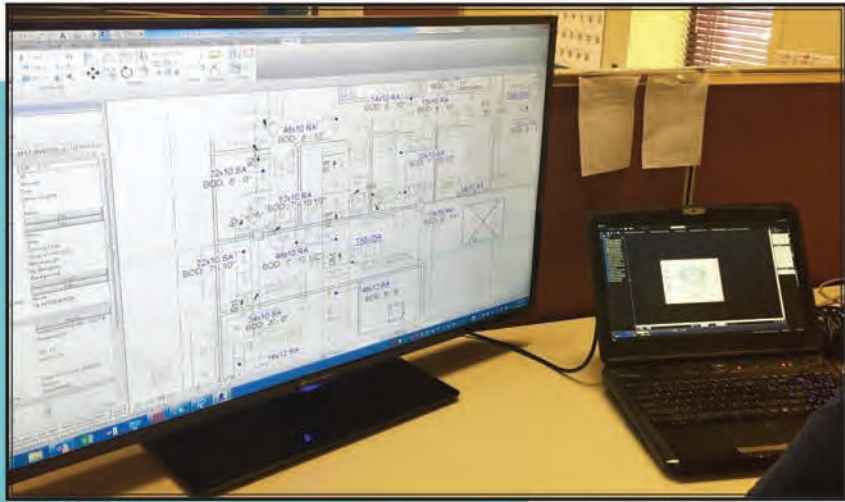


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TRADE UNIONS

Sources: The Unions.
Ranked by number of local members.

| | UNION NAME | ADDRESS | PHONE/ FAX (=) / WEBSITE / EMAIL | 2018 LOCAL MEMBERSHIP | CONTACT(S) | NUMBER OF IL COUNTIES REPRESENTED | YEAR EST'D |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------|
| 1 | International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local Union 916 | 3361 Teamster Way Springfield, IL 62707 | 217-522-7932 217-522=9492 teamsters916.org teri@teamsters916.org | 4,500 | Tony Barr, President | 14 | 1943 |
| 2 | Local 477 LIUNA Laborers | 1615 N. Dirksen Pkwy. Springfield, IL 62702 | 217-522-0014 217-522=0090 local477.com | 1,500 | Brad Schaive, Business Manager & Secretary/Treasurer | 7 | 1903 |
| 3 | International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 965 | 3520 E. Cook St. Springfield, IL 62703 | 217-528-9659 217-528=9060 iuoe965.org operators@comcast.net | 1,400 | Dennis R. Minick, Business Manager | 15 | 1931 |
| 3 | United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, Local No. 270 | 211 W. Lawrence Ave. Springfield, IL 62704 | 217-528-7571 217-528=9364 | 1,400 | Carl Bimm, President | 19 | 1887 |
| 4 | International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local No. 193 | 3150 Wide Track Dr. Springfield, IL 62703 | 217-544-3479 217-544=0193 ibew193.com ibew193@comcast.net | 940 | Neil Hervey, Business Manager | 9 | 1901 |
| 5 | Plumbers & Steamfitters, Local 137 | 2880 E. Cook St. Springfield, IL 62703 | 217-544-2724 217-744=6855 ua137.org | 892 | Aaron Gurnsey, Business Manager | 18 | 1895 |
| 6 | Plasterers and Cement Masons, Local 18 | 40 Adloff Lane, Suite 6A Springfield, IL 62703 | 217-585-4221 217-585=4222 lpcmia18.org localunion18@att.net | 750 | Mark Winkler, Business Manager and Pres. of Central IL Building and Construction Trades Council | 22 | 1864 |
| 7 | Sheet Metal Workers, Local 218 | 2855 Via Verde Springfield, IL 62703 | 217-529-0161 217-529=6005 | 700 | Ed Robison, Business Manager | 21 | 1969 |
| 8 | Iron Workers, Local 46 | 2888 E. Cook St. Springfield, IL 62703 | 217-528-4041 217-528=9046 ironworkers46.org iwaustin@sbcglobal.net | 315 | Shane Austin, Business Manager | 20 | 1908 |
| 9 | Millwrights, Local 1051 | 602 Keokuk St. Lincoln, IL 62656 | 217-735-1051 217-732=1051 millwrightlocal1051.com local1051@carpentersunion.org | 296 | Jeff Bort, Business Representative; Nate Hodgson, Business Representative | 41 | 1987 |
| 10 | International Union of Painters and Allied Trades, District Council 58, Locals 90 & 2007 | 3223 Lake Plaza Dr. Springfield, IL 62703 | 618-781-9543 217-529-6976 217-529=6658 dc58iupat.org nick@dc58.org | 273 | Nicholas Mettlemeyer, Business Representative | 9 | 1899 |
| 11 | United Union of Roofers, Waterproofers and Allied Workers, Local 112 | 301 East Spruce St. Springfield, IL 62704 | 217-210-2044 217-210=2041 rooferslocal112.com John@rooferslocal112.com | 86 | John Nicks, Business Manager | 14 | 1930 |

Seeing a backlash from Janus v. AFSCME

BY CINDA ACKERMAN KLINKNA

With the Supreme Court ruling as expected in the recent *Janus v. AFSCME* case, focus turned to what might be the fallout for unions. Governor Bruce Rauner declared the Supreme Court's ruling in favor of Janus had "dealt a death blow to labor." As Rauner left office, he claimed one of his biggest accomplishments was getting the Janus decision. Results, though, show that the suit backfired on those who pushed for its passage. Unions have actually seen an increase in membership since the court decision.

Shortly after being elected in 2015, Rauner filed a lawsuit against AFSCME, stating that non-union members should not be forced to pay "fair share" dues. Fair share is the provision that those who do not want to be in the union, but benefit along with all members, pay a fair share. When a lower court ruled that Rauner had no standing, as he was not directly affected by the provision, state worker Mark Janus stepped in as the plaintiff. Funding came from the Illinois Policy Institute and Liberty Justice Center of Chicago.

The communication directors of the three largest Illinois unions, Sarah Antonacci of the Illinois Education Association (IEA), Aviva Bowen of the Illinois Federation of Teachers (IFT), and Anders Lindall of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) all report an increase in membership since the Janus ruling.

Actual numbers vary throughout the year, so exact figures are not confirmed. However, prior to the *Janus* decision, IEA reported a membership of around 134,000; IFT around 100,000 members and AFSCME around 65,000.

None of the unions had many fair share

payers when the suit was wending its way through the courts. Landers says, "We had over 90 percent full dues-paying members prior to the Janus decision; we now have more. Those who were fee-payers have actually joined as full members."

That is also the typical response from other unions. Antonacci says, "We are up over 1000 members. Our members know they have a voice in their profession and can provide a better environment for their students when their local and state unions are strong." Bowen reports, "Our members are more committed and enthusiastic about their union than ever, because they see that through our collective voice and solidarity, we have the power to fight for equal opportunity for all, not just the privileged few. Rauner's animosity only made us stronger."

Immediately after the *Janus* decision was announced last June, the Illinois Policy Institute began a campaign with direct mail to many union members. School districts received FOIA requests asking for each teacher's name, address and email. Many districts refused to share personal data of their teachers and support staff. According to Landers, members in AFSCME received letters after "Rauner provided personal information to the IPI. One mailer arrived around Christmas with a form that a member could mail to AFSCME to drop their union membership and get themselves a Christmas bonus. A few days after these hit mailboxes, we got forms back, not dropping membership but marked 'I am union strong.'"

Union members across the state reacted similarly. Antonacci says, "Many members sent the letters back to the IPI marked 'return to sender.' They just weren't interested in what

the IPI was trying to tell them.

The trade unions have also seen similar responses. Aaron Gurnsey, business manager of Local 137 Plumbers and Steamfitters, with a membership of 900, represents both private and public employees. "We have members who work for the state, city or county so the numbers stay constant. We haven't seen any change. What we have seen, though, are more people applying for trade jobs."


So why has the reaction been so strong among union members? Members get support from their union for professional development, contract enhancements, and overall, as a voice for their profession, whether that be education, nursing, state agency work or the trades. Watching educators across the country stand up for public education empowered many union members in Illinois to take a stand against IPI and other similar groups.

However, no one takes the initial increase in membership as a sign of relief. All recognize that there will be ongoing attempts by groups to whittle away at the union membership. Landers summed it up by saying, "We can't be naïve. The IPI has been raising more money to trick, dupe and divide our members." Supporting members will continue to be a priority of all the unions, just as it has been for decades.


One IEA member said, "IEA has been around since 1853; the IPI and others won't win in trying to take us out." ♦

Cinda Ackerman Klickna, a former English teacher in Springfield, has always been a union activist. She retired as the president of the Illinois Education Association in 2017, having worked to support teachers and students in that role.





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Building confidence for the future

BY LINDSEY SALVATELLI

Six students have taken the opportunity to learn the construction trade at South Town Construction Training Center, 1122 S. Grand Ave E. Students are given hands-on-training through a 12-week program that aims to give unskilled workers potential knowledge and real experience they're able to apply while working on residential construction sites. By the second week of the program, students have begun to develop their understanding of what to expect on a job site.

The program doesn't just provide students with an understanding about construction, but also guides them on how to market themselves when applying for work as well as instilling confidence.

Calvin Pitts, the founder of South Town Construction Training Center, takes an interactive approach with his pupils by working alongside them when they're being introduced to new concepts. (*Springfield Business Journal*, "Hope for a bright future," Patrick Yeagle, March 2017).

Pitts has been at the forefront of developing innovative ways to teach participants at his South Town Construction Training Center and has collaborated with Ameren Illinois to give his students more of a robust experience.

"My thing is leaving them with the confidence to go and apply at some of these jobs they've been locked out of for all these years," Pitts said. "Even if they have a negative response, it's not going to tear them down. A lot of times we've been rejected and told 'we can't do this,' or 'that's hard,' so building that confidence is important."

Student Daria Johnson, 36, said the type of training she's learning at South Town is "in my genes," because both of her parents have train-

ing that can be applied to construction. "The reason I came to this class is because I feel that this is something I'd like to do," Johnson said. "I love to fix on houses and stuff like that. I can do anything I can put my mind to."

Johnson is one of four students currently enrolled in the program without a high school diploma or a GED. Pitts said obtaining a GED isn't necessary to complete his program, but it's highly encouraged if students want to proceed in the trade, especially if they hope to obtain a union job. Johnson said she plans to take Pitts up on his offer to help obtain her GED, though she realizes she needs to strike a balance between her courses at South Town and GED studies.

Student David Alexander, 20, said he found out about Pitts' program through a pastor and younger friend who was interested in the program. So far, he said, he's loved not only gaining an understanding of a new trade, but also working with classmates who are equally engaged in what they're learning.

Students write about their coursework in journals and reflect on their likes and dislikes. Alexander said he likes being able to reflect on



Calvin Pitts tells his students about the importance of safety when on job sites during a class at South Town Construction Training Center.

PHOTO BY LINDSEY SALVATELLI

his thoughts about each class because it forces him to think about what he's learning and further develop.

"My confidence is based not only on what we're learning from Calvin, but we're comfortable with our classmates and our environment. We're not just learning how to do stuff, but we're learning why we're doing it. I think that helps with building our confidence."

Alexander came to program with a slight understanding of the construction trade because he has family members who work in the field, but he said he hopes he can use the knowledge he develops over the course of the program to gain a career and apply it to a home in the future.

"One day, I may want to buy a house and I

want to be able to do stuff to it," Alexander said. "I want to be able to use this knowledge when I do."

He said he's learned how to wire a light, which prompted him to ask Pitts if it were possible to work on projects that some of the students can take home. "I want to use these skills in a practical way, in an everyday type of way," Alexander said.

By the second week of the curriculum, the class had noticeably loosened up. The focus of the lesson was on safety practices, and Pitts moved his students along in their lesson by engaging them in conversation about the terms they've learned since entering the program.

"He's not the type of person that'll put someone down for not knowing something, but he will correct you," Alexander said. "The way he corrects you doesn't make you feel like a loser."

Pitts' lesson wasn't based solely on readings. The students will take on a number of projects along the way, but Pitts had them start at the basics: drilling holes into what will eventually be an electrical board.

He said he relaxes his hands-on approach with his students as they progress through the program, giving them the opportunity to develop in the field but also giving them confidence they need to succeed in any industry.

"If you don't get it right the first time, don't worry about it, but if you do, I wouldn't be surprised," Pitts told his class. ♦

Lindsey Salvatelli is an editorial intern with Illinois Times as part of the Public Affairs Reporting master's degree program at University of Illinois Springfield. Contact her at intern@illinoistimes.com.

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Rent control in Illinois?

BY SARAH DELANO PAVLIK

Rent control involves restrictions on the amount or increase in rent a landlord can charge. Although it has a longer history, most rent control in the United States came into place shortly after World War II or in the 1970s, when other price controls were enacted.

There are currently four states with rent controls in effect in some locations: California, New York, New Jersey and Maryland. The District of Columbia also has rent controls in place. In states where rent control is allowed, the details are often left to municipalities to adopt their own particular rules.

In New York City, for example, there are apartments subject to rent control and apartments subject to rent stabilization. Rent-controlled apartments generally have the lowest rent, but will be eliminated over time. Rent control only applies to apartments that were built before 1947 and in which the tenant (or his/her lawful successor) has been living continuously since 1971. Maximum rents, which are far below market value, are set. However, once the apartment becomes vacant, rent control will cease, and the unit will be subject to rent stabilization, or, in some cases, removed from all restrictions.

New York's rent control has had some absurd results. According to CNN, "Patricia O'Grady moved to New York in 1955 to pursue a career as an actress. She and three girlfriends found a modest two-bedroom apartment on the top floor of a four-story, mixed-use commercial building. They paid \$16 a month in rent." Grady stayed in the unit until her death in March 2018, at which time she was paying \$28.43 a month in rent. After renovations, which are desperately needed, the apartment will rent for \$5,000 a month.

Rent-controlled apartments in New York will gradually disappear. In contrast, almost half of New York City apartments are covered by rent stabilization. Under the rent stabilization rules, a landlord can only increase the rent by a percentage determined by the Rent Guidelines Board. For example, the increases allowed in 2017 were 1.25 percent for one-year leases and 2 percent for two-year leases.

As a tenant struggling to pay rent, rent control and stabilization can be appealing; however, critics state that rent control causes more problems than it solves. Per a 2013 *New York Times* article, "The problem, though, is that these programs actually make the city much less affordable for those unlucky enough not to live in a rent-regulated apartment. The absurdity of New York City's housing market

has become a standard part of many Econ 101 courses, because it is such a clear example of public policy that achieves the near opposite of its goals. There are, effectively, two rental markets in Manhattan. Roughly half the apartments are under rent regulation, public housing or some other government program. That leaves everyone else to compete for the half with rents determined by the market."

According to the PEW Charitable Trusts, a study by the Stanford Graduate School of Business found that rent control creates both winners and losers, even among renters. Longtime renters who have been living in rent-controlled units benefit greatly from rent control, while newcomers end up paying higher rents because the supply of available units is constricted.

Thirty-five states, including Illinois, have laws prohibiting rent control, Illinois having passed the Rent Control Preemption Act in 1997. Although it is currently prohibited, Illinois has a history with rent control.

During World War II, the entire nation, including Chicago, was required to participate in stringent rent controls imposed by the Office of Price Administration. When, in 1946, the federal program ended controls over hotels, including Chicago's substantial stock of residential hotels, the Chicago City Council passed an ordinance returning these dwellings to rent control, only to be overturned by the Illinois State Supreme Court in January 1947. Federal rent control, having eased after World War II, ended in 1953 at the cessation of the Korean War.

In the 1970s, Chicago again found itself subject to federally mandated rent controls under the Nixon administration's wage and price guidelines. Thereafter, high rents resulting from peacetime inflation, escalating property taxes, declining construction, condominium conversion and abandonment led Mayor Richard J. Daley to appoint a committee in 1976 to consider rent controls. In 1977, the committee recommended against the adoption of controls.

Now, rent control proponents are again pushing for regulation in Illinois. Recently, Illinois legislators have been asking housing experts, landlords and renters to weigh in as they consider lifting the statewide ban on rent control. Hearings were held in September of 2018, with the focus currently on Chicago. A group called "Lift the Ban" collected enough signatures to get a non-binding referendum about local rent control on the November ballot in three Chicago wards. In those three wards, there was overwhelming support to allow rent control.

Perhaps most importantly, Governor J.B. Pritzker has indicated he is in favor of repealing

the 1997 Act. The repeal of the Act, however, is only the first step. If the Act is repealed, it will be each city's responsibility to enact specific regulations if it wants to implement rent control. And, in Illinois, that is where things always seem to fall apart. Once the politicians and lobbyists get in a room, the odds of anything benefitting ordinary citizens usually go from slim to none. ♦

Sarah Delano Pavlik is an attorney at Delano Law Offices, LLC. Contact her at sdpavlik@delanolaw.com



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MEDICAL NEWS

SIU School of Medicine opens clinic in Taylorville Memorial Hospital

Southern Illinois University School of Medicine is opening a Center for Family Medicine clinic inside Taylorville Memorial Hospital.

The new SIU primary care clinic opened on Jan. 15 and will initially be located in the specialty clinic space, near the hospital's laboratory and rehab services departments.

Dr. Janet Albers, physician assistant Christine Albers and nurse practitioner Airn Etherton will see patients three half-days per week. A nurse will be available Mondays through Fridays to take calls.

Albers is the chair of the Department of Family and Community Medicine at SIU and has practiced full-scope family medicine for 28 years. "I am so excited to be part of this new clinic, and our team is eager to see any patients needing primary care services. We will be providing services including well-child care, chronic illness management, women's health, geriatrics and behavioral health."

Taylorville Memorial Hospital is a 25-bed critical access hospital and is an affiliate of Memorial Health System. The SIU Department of Family and Community Medicine serves patients in 10 sites in Central and Southern Illinois. ♦



Dr. Janet Albers with a young patient.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SIU

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Prairie Heart Institute partners with the University of Chicago Medicine

Patients in Central and Southern Illinois will gain increased access to heart care under a new alliance between Prairie Heart Institute and the University of Chicago Medicine. The collaboration strengthens clinical capabilities and services in advanced heart failure, heart transplants and mechanical circulatory support, including ventricular assist devices.

"Working shoulder-to-shoulder with UChicago Medicine to serve patients with congestive heart failure, our whole is now greater than the sum of our parts," said Marc Shelton, M.D., the medical director of the Prairie Heart Institute of Illinois and president of Prairie Cardiovascular. "With this alliance, our historical strengths and forward-thinking approach will complement UChicago Medicine's team of nationally renowned experts, thus transforming the future of heart care in this region."

Heart failure is a serious and often complex condition in which the heart cannot pump enough blood and oxygen throughout the body. It affects roughly 5.7 million adults in this country, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Each year in the U.S., an estimated 825,000 new cases are diagnosed and over 275,000 people die of the condition. Early diagnosis and treatment are critical for patients with heart failure. In cases where medical therapy is not sufficient, people with heart failure may require heart transplant or ventricular assist devices.

Over 50 years ago, Prairie performed the region's first open heart procedure. Since then, it has led the region by providing treatments available at only a few locations around the country. More recently, it created a way to treat sudden cardiac events by launching the region's

first emergent heart care system, the Prairie Chest Pain Network. Today, Prairie Heart Institute physicians not only treat the heart, but the entire circulatory system through programs focusing on the vascular system.

"We treat more patients in almost every category of cardiac care than anyone else in the region," said Shelton. "Together -- Prairie Heart Institute and UChicago Medicine -- we have seen it all, we have experienced it all. And research shows that more experience yields better outcomes."

"Our readmission rate for heart failure is significantly lower than what is usually expected for the kinds of critically ill patients we often treat," Shelton continued. "Through our new alliance with UChicago Medicine, we will be working to improve upon these already excellent results."

UChicago Medicine's Heart and Vascular Center is an international leader in the treatment of advanced heart failure and has conducted clinical trials and other extensive research in this area. In addition, UChicago Medicine is home to one of the oldest cardiovascular research programs funded by the National Institutes of Health.

"The advanced heart failure program at University of Chicago features world-renowned medical and surgical faculty in the field of heart failure, heart transplant and mechanical circulatory support," said Nir Uriel, MD, director of heart failure, transplant and mechanical circulatory support at UChicago Medicine. "By offering cutting-edge technology for the care of patients with all different types of heart failure, we have achieved outcomes that are among the best in the country." ♦



Rosati's is located at 2936 S. 6th St., Springfield.



Rosati's pizza with a double dough crust featuring a hand-rolled edge.

PHOTOS BY STACIE LEWIS

Chicago-style pizza in Springfield at Rosati's

BY TOM PAVLIK

Rosati's first came to town a few years back, but then went dark about a year ago – right around the time a car plowed through its front windows. I guess the former owners took that as a bad omen. But, thanks to new franchise owners, Rosati's reopened late last summer in the same space.

For those of you who don't know, Rosati's is the latest Springfield purveyor of Chicago-style deep-dish pizza. We visited because we heard the pizza was good, but found out there's a lot more here than just pizza.

Rosati's is a chain with over 200 locations spread throughout the country, but with an emphasis on Illinois. I generally prefer to avoid chains, but Rosati's does claim it's a family-owned establishment. And, to be honest, I'm willing to make some exceptions if the food is good.

My guests and I arrived around noon on a cold and dreary day. The avowed purpose of the visit was for the deep-dish pizza – we planned ahead and pre-ordered so we didn't waste most of the lunch hour waiting for our pie. Rosati's was about half-full with a healthy mix of social and work diners.

Although it's in a strip mall, Rosati's did a nice job with the space. There are as many TVs as any sports bar in Springfield and an

attractive wood bar on the far wall. The wood floor adds a nice touch, although I imagine when in full swing the acoustics could be a bit difficult. We appreciated that there is a separate counter near the front door for take-out purposes. Décor is sparse and consists largely of black-and-white photographs.

Rosati's menu contains all the classic pizzeria items you'd expect, together with a few surprises, like chicken wings, fried pickles and a burger. Perhaps these are homage to its sports bar character – but they were dishes we'd have been hard-pressed to order.

We decided to go with the 10" deep-dish that claims it feeds two or three people. It was priced at \$14.99 for cheese, with each additional item an extra \$2. We opted for Italian sausage and onions. We also opted to go with the Antipasto salad (romaine and iceberg lettuce, spinach, green pepper, red onion, olives, pepperoni, bacon, tomato, mozzarella and asiago served with a sweet Italian dressing). And, because we care about our readers, we doubled down and went for the combo sandwich (Italian sausage and thinly sliced beef served with sweet peppers, with fries - \$8.99).

We were happy to see a "build your own pasta" option for \$10.95 where diners can pick a pasta, a sauce and one addition such as meatballs, peppers, etc. Rosati's also dishes out classics like chicken parmesan (\$11.95),

lasagna (\$11.95) and the ever-so-humble spaghetti and meatballs (\$11.95). For those who don't want to wait, or don't like deep-dish, Rosati's has thin crust pizza as well. Sandwiches come with your choice of salad or fries, and pastas come with a side of garlic bread and Romano cheese.

We started with the salad, which was well-sized for the price. I found the dressing to be too sweet for my taste, but couldn't complain, as that's how it was described. On the other hand, my two guests were more than pleased.

The sandwich came out next, and our server quite helpfully had already portioned it into three servings for us – which was a very nice touch. I had mine augmented with hot giardiniera. Again, this was a decent size for the price. The Italian bread was perfect for soaking up the yummy goodness that oozed from the fillings. Messy, but worth it. We all agreed we goofed up when we didn't ask for mozzarella to be added (additional \$1).

At this point, I was afraid that our eyes were bigger than our stomachs – we still had a Chicago-style pizza to tuck into. And although I'm not a big fan of deep-dish pizza (too much dough and cheese), this was a good pizza. I appreciated that it was well-sauced (a simple and bright Pomodoro tomato sauce) and that the buttery (and perfectly cooked) crust played well against the sausage and

onions. We each only managed one slice, but had we not ruined our appetites already, we would have polished this one off.

Springfield has plenty of pizza options, and we're glad that Rosati's is one of them. ♦

Thomas Pavlik is an attorney at Delano Law Offices, LLC. Contact him at tpavlik@delanolaw.com.

ROSATI'S

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Credit Cards: Yes

Atmosphere: ★★★★★

Service: ★★★★★

Food: ★★★★★

Price: ★★★★★

Suitability for business lunch: ★★★★★

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COVER PHOTO BY DAVID BLANCHETTE

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Betsy Dollar, executive director of SAA, cuts the ribbon at the dedication on Jan. 5.

PHOTOS BY JANET SEITZ

New Visual Arts Center for SAA

BY JANET SEITZ

The Springfield Art Association's Visual Arts Center had been on the drawing board for many years before coming to fruition. Don Walton of Walton and Associates Architects, one of the forces in helping it become reality, was present at the recent ribbon cutting of the SAA's new 5,800 square foot building. The opening marks the fourth phase of SAA's plan to renovate the Edwards Place home and upgrade the facility.

Walton and his wife, Carole, have been members of the Springfield Art Association for 50 years and the Prairie Art Alliance (now the SAA Collective) for nearly 30 years. "We have always thought that architecture was an art -- more than bricks and mortar -- an opportunity to create interesting spaces for people," said Don Walton. Walton donated his time and talent toward the Visual Arts Center, but the couple also served as co-chairs for the 2012 capital campaign, tasked with raising the funds to build the new facilities.

SAA's executive director Betsy Dollar recalled, "When I arrived 10 years ago, it was clear that the SAA desperately needed a new ceramics lab. We were also just getting started on a serious study of Edwards Place and the creation of a restoration plan. The whole thing gained momentum in 2012 as we were designing the centennial celebration and our vision for the next 100 years. There was a real need for improved facilities, a great desire for a historically-accurate Edwards Place, the exhibition gallery was screaming to be remodeled and the existing studios needed new lighting."

Dollar said the original plan included an expansion of the Con-dell Studio and the new building was to be larger. However, years of fundraising and a deadline to secure TIF funds caused plans to be scaled back to achieve SAA's goals. "We are closing the gap on the funding, but we will continue to fundraise until we have fully funded the building," said Dollar.

The new building, which houses metals, ceramics and glass studios, will get its final touch with the addition of a glass-blowing area, slated to be in place in June.

"We are planning a celebration, donor appreciation and demonstration on June 28. We currently have a call out for a one-year funded residency for a glass artist who will help us design and implement our hot glass program," Dollar explained. The Springfield Area Arts Council donated \$10,000 to help fund a two-year artist residency for the hot-glass program.

The SAA and its many visual arts supporters can feast their eyes on the four phases of accomplishments: remodel of the exhibition gallery, now the M. G. Nelson Family Gallery; Edwards Place home restoration; repairs and upgrades to the existing studios; and the new building for ceramics, metals and glass. The combined cost for all phases was approximately \$3.2 million, with the new building coming in at about \$1.8 million. In addition to the new building's named sponsors, J. Chris Smith and Debra Nickelson-Smith, along with Kate and Joe Baima, the new building and campaign benefited from \$450,000 in Enos Park TIF funds and \$300,000 from some 800 donors whose contributions ranged

from \$5 to tens of thousands of dollars.

The investment paints a picture of growth. "Our goal is to be the best community visual arts center in Central Illinois," said Dollar. "That means high-quality facilities with high-quality faculty and a variety of opportunities for people to explore the arts. This is important to all of Springfield, not just the SAA. We hope that we are building a stronger creative community which will help retain and attract creative people to the area."

At the Jan. 5 ribbon cutting, Mayor Jim Langfelder, whose mother, Midge, was an art teacher and an artist, said, "The arts breathe life into our community. It's not just about today. It's about tomorrow as well."

Dollar noted that businesses in Springfield need to recognize the value of creativity and creative opportunities in the community. "Innovation is rooted in creativity. Creativity and imagination need to be nurtured and developed. I believe that we are offering these opportunities for all ages. I believe that building a stronger creative community can boost all of Springfield."

"All forms of art can and should be enjoyed by everyone," Walton added. "In Springfield, we have many opportunities to participate in whatever art form we choose. Supporting the arts is everyone's responsibility."

For more information on classes, exhibits, scholarships, tours and more, visit www.springfieldart.org. ♦

Janet Seitz is a local communications professional, writer and artist. To share your story, contact her at janetseitz1@gmail.com.



Pottery wheels in the new ceramics studio.



Work stations in the new jewelry and metals studio.



Fresenius Kidney Care located at 1800 E. Washington St.

PHOTO BY STACIE LEWIS

Fresenius Kidney Care expands

Fresenius Kidney Care has opened its third dialysis clinic, Fresenius Springfield East. It occupies the former Department of Human Services building at 1800 E. Washington St.

According to Keith Kipping, director of operations, Kara Thomas is the manager and has a staff of about nine employees. Kipping also said the facility should be Medicare-certified by April 2019.

Fresenius Kidney Care, a division of Fresenius Medical Care North America, operates over 2,400 dialysis clinics nationwide providing services to more than 190,000 people with kidney disease every year.

The other two Springfield locations are in the RAI Centre West at 1112 Centre West Drive, and at 2068 S. Koke Mill Road, which serves as a home therapy clinic.

You can reach Springfield East by calling 528-5302. The clinic's hours are Monday through Saturday, 5 a.m.-6 p.m. ♦

Sangamon County new business registrations

Sangamon County New Business Registrations, Dec. 16 – Jan. 15, 2019

Grand Barber and Beauty Salon, 217 N. Grand Ave. West. 503-3275. Deidre Perez.

H & R Block, 2769 S. 6th St. 525-1040. HRB Tax Group, Inc.

LP Construction, 935 N. Ohio. 350-3839. Lewis Paulen.

Sleek Extends Extensions, LLC, 217 N. Grand Ave. West. 503-3275. Deidre Perez.

Dinosaur Painting, 1210 E. Washington St., Apt. 613. 812-208-6533. Nathaniel E. Woodson.

J and J Martin, Inc., 1428 N. Water St. 240-4924. James Edward Martin and Joseph W. Martin.

SOAJR, 1615 E. Melrose St. 402-8480. Suarwau O. Amuda, Jr.

Dumb Records, 418 E. Monroe St. 691-8991. Brian A. Galecki.

White Glove Treasures, 2663 Farragut. 416-5667. Linda K. Castor.

Health for Life Chiropractic, 331 N. Grand Ave. West. 544-3922. Thomas B. Fulcher.

Allen Bridgeford, Jr. Trucking, 1135. 2nd St. 416-7204. Allen J. Bridgeford, Jr. and Veradene Garrett Bridgeford.

Chatham Veterinary Clinic, 1500 N. Main St. 483-2428. Charles R. Boyce.

Hair Avant-Garde, 1200 W. Jefferson St. 414-1529. Susan Kinsel.

New Day Notebook Designs, 5608 Legacy Ln. 971-0173. Katharine Kerr.

14K+, 2120 Wiggins Ave. 836-1831. Diana L. Hetherington.

Imperial Cleaning Services, 2528 Charlack Ave. 553-8339. Johnathan Dent.

Jim Kuizin, 19 Bonneville Dr. 415-1567. Jim Kuizin.

Pretty Edible Creations, 701 Kirkwood Dr., #2. 612-598-0771. Valancia Joiner.

Bobcat of Springfield, 4475 Camp Butler Rd. 525-0349. Dan Anich.

Zen Tribe Designs, 400 Lexington Dr. 416-0302. Christian Neff.

Fresenius Kidney Care Springfield East, 140 S. Martin Luther King Dr. 528-5302. Fresenius Medical Care North America.

Kay Gottrich, LCPC, 975 S. Durkin Dr. 572-1617. Kay Gottrich.

Pristine Mobile Detailing, 110 S. Grand Ave. West. 220-2049. Kenneth R. Greer, Jr.

The Sorted Home, 116 Ramblewood Dr., Chatham. 608-692-3613. Megan Johnson.

Capital City Lawn Dogs, 4201 Cherry Grove School Ln., Auburn. 381-9441. Charles Williams.

Lake Springfield Catfish Series, 2 Stelte Ln. 801-6164. Williams Blankenship.

Business Builder Social Media Marketing, 77 Bonnie Brook Rd., Chatham. 717-6287. Dawn M. Huddleston.

RB Woodworks, LLC, 406 W. Elm, Buffalo. 899-0016. Riley Bastin.

Recovery Masters, 109 McCreery. 801-3221. William Meacham.

White Flower Ministry, 2332 South Noble Ave. 679-1957. Christy L. Schmidt.

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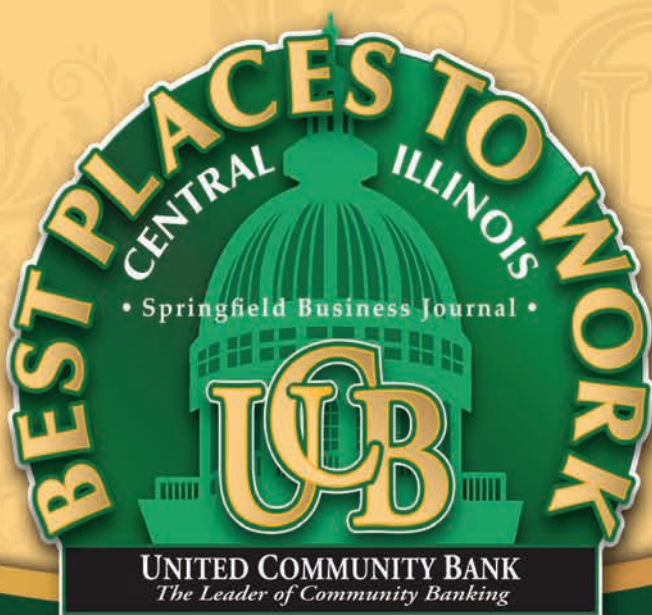
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