

APRIL 2015

# Springfield business journal

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Laura Reyman portrays Helen Edwards in the formal parlors of Edwards Place.

PHOTO BY PATRICK YEAGLE

## Lincoln funeral anniversary

*Edwards Place gets ready to welcome visitors*

By Ann Strahle

As visitors open the front door to Edwards Place in Springfield, they immediately find themselves transported to a mid-19th century home. Erika Holst, the curator of collections, takes visitors on tours and keeps up an informative patter. "We are standing now on the back porch of the house as it was in 1833. The owners remodeled in 1857 and they enclosed the back area, which would have been the side of the house in 1833. The exterior would have been whitewashed because the back porch would have been a workspace, so we built in these windows so we wouldn't lose what we discovered." Those small windows open to expose the original whitewashed bricks, discovered

through a recent renovation.

Constructed in 1833, Edwards Place is the oldest house in Springfield. Through fundraising and matching grants, the first floor of the home was recently restored and officially reopened in late February. As the city of Springfield readies itself for the 150th anniversary of President Lincoln's funeral, Betsy Dollar, the executive director of the Springfield Art Association, sees the event as a perfect opportunity to showcase the home's historical significance. "It's actually nice timing that there is this big event that's getting national attention, it's like our debut party," she says.

The home was owned by Benjamin

Edwards, the youngest son of Illinois Governor Ninian Edwards and brother-in-law of Mary Lincoln's sister. The Lincolns did spend time at the home, and the most famous artifact in the home, the courting couch where Lincoln and Mary Todd sat during their courtship, has a place of honor.

"We are excited to show the public that we are here, and a viable house museum," said Dollar. "Erika has this vision that any furniture that is upholstered in blue, people can try out. They can see how it feels to sit in a parlor of that period, and how it differs from a contemporary living room. The

*continued on page 6*

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Jim Langfelder



Paul Palazzolo

PHOTOS BY TERRY FARMER

# Meet the next mayor

**Paul Palazzolo and Jim Langfelder get down to business**

By Scott Faingold

On April 7, Springfield voters will have a choice between Democratic city treasurer Jim Langfelder and Republican Sangamon County auditor Paul Palazzolo in a mayoral race which found the two leaving longtime Mayor Mike Houston in the dust of the primary.

We sat down with each of the candidates to get their perspectives on the climate of business in Springfield and what their plans are for helping Springfield to grow and thrive.

The recent election of Bruce Rauner as governor potentially casts a long shadow over the capital city's economic possibilities, but this is not a concern for Paul Palazzolo. "One of my favorite sayings is, 'Like Elvis, state government has left the building,'" he says. "Springfield's economic development muscles may have atrophied over the last 100 years, because we've always had state government to be our backup, our safety net – now we need to start developing our economic muscles and flexing those muscles and strengthening those muscles." Palazzolo goes on to say that he sees part of his role as mayor as being the "Salesman in Chief," tasked with bringing new opportunities to town which would allow Springfield

to become a peer of communities such as Austin or Madison, "great cities that just also happen to be the state capital."

Langfelder has similar goals, beginning with working to develop the inner core of the city. "If you look at Springfield, you can almost draw a circle around it where the outside is really thriving," he says, "but inside, the heart of the city, is not." His suggestion to rebuild the heart of Springfield would involve renewing properties, "not taking an expensive piece of property and raising it a little bit, but taking low-hanging fruit and building it exponentially," an approach he says will help with the city's tax base which could then be used for infrastructure improvements.

The heart of many a community is in its downtown area and downtown Springfield continues to struggle. Both candidates have thoughts about how to approach this perpetual challenge.

"The future of our downtown community is in a residential feel," Palazzolo says, stressing the need for green space. "I'm in full favor of helping downtown become a residential hub along with an operational hub of offices and opportunity," he continues, suggesting that proposals to rehab the old

YWCA building could have great potential for residential space, educational activities and business use. Palazzolo also sees a need for staple businesses such as grocery and drug stores allowing potential downtown residents to easily access the things that they need for daily living – as well as some shops. "You've got to have the shops downtown for people who visit Springfield," he says.

Langfelder has spent time studying communities with downtown areas similar to Springfield's and has drawn some conclusions. "What I would do is what has been done in other historic downtowns like ours," he explains. "Right now you have older structures and it's cost-prohibitive to remodel those because you can build new at a lower level. So what I would do is introduce an adaptive reuse ordinance which makes it more cost-effective to rehabilitate those while still meeting your health and safety standards." This approach, he claims, would reduce bureaucracy and some of the red tape that drive up building costs. He also has plans to incentivize home ownership downtown through a live-work ownership program, which would use federal block grants to build townhouses or condominiums. "That way they have a

vested interest in downtown, they're buying a piece of property – and it also gives the developer their funds back quicker so they can recycle those dollars into a new project." Langfelder says this approach would not be limited to downtown but also help build up other neglected areas of Springfield.

"We need to aggressively market the city," says Palazzolo. "We need to trumpet our strengths and match those strengths to what potential businesses and industries might be looking for," a process he compares to the way a recent university graduate will tailor him or herself to the needs of a potential employer. He says this is essential in order to keep young people from abandoning the town for greener pastures. "We have to have additional opportunities in the city of Springfield so that our city's children and grandchildren will live 10 minutes away and not 10 hours away."

"Everyone talks about economic development," Langfelder says, "but did you know the city does not have an economic development committee? All these commissions," he says with wonder, "and nothing for economic development. They leave it up to the chamber." Langfelder proposes what he calls a "community

**“ I’m not big on who gets the credit, I’m about getting the job done. Working together as a community is what it’s all about.”**



**“ We need to trumpet our strengths and match those strengths to what potential businesses and industries might be looking for.”**



PHOTOS BY TERRY FARMER

development finance commission” which would work with an office of economic development to be made up of realtors, developers and bankers to help make pragmatic plans for things like uses for TIF funds. “Right now the mayor is able to steer those projects,” he says, “but I’d like to see a more bottom-up approach where the community can have input.” As for marketing the city, Langfelder believes that Springfield professionals who travel to other communities regularly to attend conferences, conventions and other functions – people like bankers, doctors, teachers – are the city’s best potential salespeople. “I would put a program in place to work with Local First and the chamber and Visitors Bureau to get these experts from the community to help promote Springfield,” he says.

Another issue facing the city which has a huge effect on business is the future of CWLP. Palazzolo goes as far as to say that “the main mission for mayor of the city of Springfield is to ensure that CWLP rates are kept as low as possible.” As mayor, he

says he would effect this by installing an entrepreneurial general manager with a volunteer advisory board “to provide input for the council and the utilities leadership, in the same way that any corporation has a board of directors.” He also says there is a need to investigate ways to gradually wean ourselves off of the Payment in Lieu of Taxes program [wherein money goes into the city’s general fund from CWLP]. “Thousands of cities around the country operate without an annual windfall of funds from a municipally owned utility, and without jeopardizing city services. We need to learn to do the same,” he says, emphasizing that such a shift might not happen overnight but is attainable.

Langfelder offers a three-point plan for reforming things at CWLP. “Step one is restoring trust and accountability, which would be done via a city council utilities committee. We need to provide as much information as possible to the city council members so they can make those informed decisions for the betterment of Springfield.”

He also proposes accrual reporting on the utility, which would show “what’s expected and what bills we have to pay, to get a true financial picture of the utility.”

Langfelder’s second step would be to insure CWLP’s financial stability, which would happen through the auditing of contracts, particularly with regard to wind energy. “We need to make sure the contracts are fair and equitable to the rate-payers and the utility, and if they’re not we need to try to renegotiate those or cancel them if we can.”

“The third aspect of my CWLP plan is looking forward to the future,” Langfelder says. “In 2025 the state has a mandate where utility companies would have 25 percent of their energy be renewable. Right now we’re at 20 percent with the wind energy and so we need to plan for the future.” He proposes closing the gap with increased focus on solar energy, which he points out operates during peak daytime usage levels, compared to wind, which he describes as more of an inverted curve,

gathering much of its energy at night.

“I believe that I bring the right talents and skills to the role of mayor,” says Palazzolo, pointing out that serving the public is a large part of the job but certainly not the whole story. “It involves inspiring the public to help Springfield be a great city. Being mayor requires two hats. One hat is to efficiently and effectively manage city government; the other hat is to dynamically lead the city of Springfield by casting a vision and coaching people to move toward that vision. I believe I bring that.”

“I want to install a new culture for city government,” says Langfelder. “As treasurer, I’ve always operated within budget so that’s the type of budget I would bring to the office of the mayor. But my approach to the office is, I’m not big on who gets the credit, I’m about getting the job done. Working together as a community is what it’s all about. Who can best bring the community together and get things done and do what’s best for Springfield? That’s what I plan to do as mayor.” □

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## TECHNOLOGY



# The cutting edge of pharmacy tech

By Colin Patrick Brady

A recent major innovation in the business of commercial pharmacy got its start right here in Springfield. HD Smith's Controlled Substance Ordering System (CSOS) will greatly simplify a pharmacist's process for ordering schedule II and III drugs (controlled substances).

This technology, which is proprietary to HD Smith, will free pharmacists from having to place controlled substance orders exclusively using dedicated workstations (typically located in the pharmacy placing the orders). Now, CSOS technology can be installed on dedicated devices such as iPads, allowing authorized pharmacists to place such orders anytime and anywhere.



Mark Mehmet

Mark Mehmet, vice president of product development at HD Smith, explains that "certain regulated or controlled drugs – like morphine – require a certificate, in this case digital, in order for a pharmacy to place a successful order." Using the CSOS system, the required digital certificate is loaded onto a PC in the pharmacy which is in turn uploaded into the cloud. From this point onward, any authorized pharmacist may place a drug order without having to be limited to a static workstation located

within the pharmacy. For the first time, a controlled drug order can be placed after hours from a pharmacist's home or even while on vacation, provided the certification is in order.

This is an invaluable boon for pharmacists. Previously, if an important drug order was neglected or forgotten in the daily order manifest until after hours, an understandably disgruntled patient would typically need to be dealt with the next morning. Now, such issues will no longer be a problem. The pharmacist in question will only need to log in to an iPad enabled with a CSOS certificate to take care of the order.

Mehmet refers to this small but important idea as a "revolutionary game changer in the world of placing orders for controlled substances from pharmacy warehouses." He stresses that "the service that CSOS provides is far more secure than previous iterations in terms of hackers and others possessing the ability to gain access to the cloud-based system. We have also taken steps to ensure that the iPad interface is optimized and pleasing-looking for the pharmacists using our system," he says.

Thus far, HD Smith is the first wholesaler in the country that offers the CSOS technology to pharmacy clients. According to Mehmet, HD Smith is the largest independent wholesaler of pharmaceuticals in the U.S. The company's efforts in the development of CSOS recently earned them finalist standing for a Healthcare Distribution Management Association (HDMA) award, for recognizing the increasing use of mobile, handheld and cloud-utilizing technology and how it is encroaching upon pharmacy ordering. With this in mind, Mehmet says his team has "endeavored to ensure that an as yet unexploited marketplace need is being satisfied." □

*Colin Patrick Brady is a freelance writer from Decatur.*

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## LINCOLN



Springfield's historic Edwards Place in winter.

PHOTOS BY PATRICK YEAGLE



Edwards Place's recently refurbished dining room.

*continued from cover*

luminaries of the time all gathered in this house, so we can do pretty broad history lessons of Springfield of the period," Dollar said. "We want to get people through here to realize that this is part of the history people come searching for when they come to visit Springfield. It may not be just Abraham Lincoln, but all the other people from his time period who made a difference here, who took Springfield from a muddy little town on the prairie to the state capital."

During the weekend honoring the anniversary of Lincoln's funeral, Edwards Place will host three Victorian mourning teas in which participants will learn about mourning customs of the time. Even though all of the teas are sold out, there are still opportunities available to experience the history of Edwards Place throughout that weekend. Civil War re-enactors will be camping out on the lawn of the Edwards Place and the Springfield Art

Association May 1, 2 and 3, serving as the headquarters for the 10th Cavalry. Edwards Place will also be open for special tours on Sunday, May 3, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., which includes period-appropriate refreshments.

"Once we get people into the Edwards Place and familiar with the fact that we are here, everyone will discover that we have a full-fledged art school, an arts library, and all kinds of resources that they may not be familiar with," Dollar said. "And for the out-of-town visitors, that weekend will not be long enough for everyone to see everything, so hopefully they will come back and take a regular tour of the house when it is not so crowded."

In conjunction with the anniversary, the Springfield Art Association will debut a new exhibit called "Sacred to the Memory: 19th Century Mourning Artifacts" on Saturday, May 2, at 4 p.m. "People are very interested in understanding the culture of mourning

that people were living in when Lincoln died, so we thought it was an appropriate tie-in," Holst said. "Lincoln's funeral was a national catharsis. In this one person who died, people projected and got out all their grief for everyone who had died in the entire four-year process. It was a kind of national climax of all the mourning and grief that people were feeling for the last four years."

Some seven million people viewed Lincoln's body or watched the funeral train pass by on its 12-day trip to Springfield in 1865. The reenactment of the procession to the cemetery and Lincoln's funeral will take place May 3.

Organizers expect thousands of visitors this year, and some are creating a map to help out-of-town visitors find their way around. As Dollar said, "We don't want tens of thousands of lost people in downtown Springfield. The Enos Park Neighborhood Association in conjunction

with the Springfield Art Association, Downtown Springfield Incorporated, and the Company's Coming committee are creating a map that shows the route of the procession and as many event times and locations as we can include." The maps will be available in mid-April at the Springfield Art Association and the visitors center, along with downtown businesses, hotels and restaurants.

In terms of Edwards Place, Dollar and Holst hope the attention the home receives during the anniversary weekend will help jump-start interest in the renovation of the second story, a renovation they hope will help take the house museum into the 21st century by making it more cutting-edge and appealing to visitors. □

*Ann Strahle is an assistant professor in the Communication department at University of Illinois Springfield.*



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# The law of local foods and small businesses

By Eric Woods

Rebecca Osland has lived in Springfield for just over a year, having grown up in the far north region of Illinois. She has come to enjoy being among a strong community of local foods people, as she enjoys gardening and making fermented foods. "I found a community I fit in well with and who understand one another," she said. Much of her family does still live up in Fox Lake, but she is adjusting. Osland would like to see fewer empty storefronts and more small businesses downtown, but she is happy to see the businesses which are thriving in Springfield. "There are some nicely preserved mom and pop shops, which is good."

Osland has been working since she was 15 years old when she framed pictures at her aunt's frame shop. She grew up knowing she wanted to be in a social justice role, which was only enhanced when she worked what turned out to be her worst job. "I was a financial advisor and worked 80 hours a week," she said. "It was a draw on commissions, so there was very little money at the start. It was a lot of cold calling."

Last fall, Osland began her law practice.

She had studied tax law and once thought of going in that direction, but instead decided on a different path after recovering from a serious illness. "I wanted to work with the local foods movement and small businesses. I am interested in helping people empower themselves," she said. Osland helps her clients find ways to economically support themselves by doing the things in which they are interested. "I want them to be able to take it down to the personal level rather than the large corporate level. I want to help people set up what they are dreaming about doing. There is too much control at the mega-corporate level, and I want to help people who are doing positive things in the world." She assists with business planning and structuring for family farms, small businesses and community organizations. She does not handle litigation.

Osland describes herself as a "take things as they come" type of person. "I like the process of discovering," she said. In 10 years she hopes to be in a place with more land for gardening and raising animals. "I love hobby farming." Osland also wants to find more opportunities to go backpacking,

especially to areas remote and deep in the woods. A river to river tour is also desired but not yet on her calendar.

Those who wish to practice law should find the areas they believe in and are excited about, according to Osland. "Shape your career around what you believe in," she said. "Do not do it just because you think it will make you a lot of money." Osland is following the type of law she feels will benefit others and has even started booking speaking engagements with The Land Connection, an organization which pairs new farmers with land.

Osland has just started to make her practice what she wants it to be. She is extremely proud to have returned to law school. "In spite of the illness I came back and took, and passed, the bar exam," she said. "I want to be able to meet fun clients, people who I can consider friends. Doing good in my community and adding value to the world is a good reason to keep going as long as I can." □

Eric Woods can be reached at ericw93@aol.com.



## Rebecca Osland

Title: Attorney at Law  
Address: P.O. Box 5525, Springfield, Ill., 62705  
Education: J.D. and Master's in tax law from Northwestern University

**Favorites -**  
Hobby: Gardening  
Restaurant: Maldaner's  
Music: Reggae

**Tidbits -**  
Speaks Slovak and some Russian and Spanish  
Loves backpacking and hiking  
Wants to write a dystopia

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# Home Expo 2015

Photos by Patrick Yeagle



A striking item from Payson's Moonlit Gallery Outdoor Lighting.

On Friday, March 6, the Prairie Capital Convention Center hosted the 2015 Home Expo of the Springfield Area Home Builders Association. The expo offers an annual opportunity for regional home builders, interior designers, roofers, landscapers and other exhibitors to strut their stuff. This year's crop, offering eclectic, innovative and just plain practical amenities, did not disappoint.



Springfield's Brooke Peterson is The Closet Guy, for all your closet needs.



Aquarium cabinet from Von Behren builders of Springfield.



Lifesaver storm shelter display by Big Dog Design-n-Build (Carlinville).



Visitors to Staff Carpet's booth were greeted by a Minion.



Creations by Bloomington's Knob Hill Landscape.



Refinishing project at the Precision Window and Door Services (Springfield) exhibit.



A representative of Carmean Electric stands in front of the Electrical Wall of Shame.

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# Tom Marx: A real estate developer for all seasons

By Colin Patrick Brady

Always on the go, Tom Marx has his fingers in several figurative pies in the world of commerce and real estate. Foremost, he is the owner of the Marx Commercial Real Estate Development Company based in Quincy, a business he started in 1996. Over the years he has owned and operated numerous far-flung businesses including a small neighborhood grocery store, a produce and garden center and various furniture and mattress outlets. Oh, and he also happens to own the largest fireworks store in all of Missouri.

The Fireworks Superstore is located in Hannibal, hometown to both Marx and Mark Twain. It's a 72,000-square-foot retail sales space and it is open all year, a fact he is quick to point out. Marx considers the fireworks business a hobby, albeit one that he has fostered for 50 years and which was started by his father out of a modest 30 x 15 ft. building. Marx says that customers come from all over the United States to shop with him for fireworks of all sorts. Every May, Marx steps out of his real estate developer shoes to work on the floor of the Fireworks Superstore, enjoying the chance to mix with loyal customers of many years standing. Only after the frenzied fireworks

season dies down post-Independence Day is it back to the commercial real estate world for Marx.

Marx Commercial Real Estate has commercial property holdings in what he describes as "a tri-state area within a 100-square-mile radius" which includes retail strip centers, free-standing retail stores, shopping centers, business parks and a mall in addition warehousing facilities. To date, Marx claims about 65 commercial properties, including 175 commercial tenants within approximately 1,700,000 square feet of commercial rentable space.

This success was not amassed overnight. Marx's father had moved the family from Hannibal to Illinois when Tom was only five years old. He eventually graduated from West Pike High School in Kinderhook and then landed in Quincy to attend Gem City Business College. At age 20, Marx went to California to try his hand as a men's clothing buyer but moved back to Illinois four years later to go into business for himself.

"I always wanted to get into commercial real estate and finally was able to buy my first major building back in 1991 when I opened a furniture store. By 1996 I was able to lease that building to a Staples

Office Supply store," says Marx. "I have now parlayed that into an \$82 million real estate holdings company. This is not an easy business to get into," admonishes Marx. "You generally either have to have inherited it or have a lot of money, neither of which I had. My company builds new centers and refurbishes commercial properties that need a facelift. I enjoy taking a building in the rough and making it a shining star for the neighborhood," he says with evident pride.

In 2006 Marx's company received the Pride of Quincy award which is presented for work done to build, beautify or improve buildings or landmarks for the betterment of the community. In January 2015 Marx Development received the Community Betterment award from the Hannibal, Missouri Chamber of Commerce. Most recently, in February 2015, the Jacksonville Regional Economic Development Corporation gave Marx's company the Harold Cox Award for Industry of the Year Award. For all three of these awards Marx states he is very proud and grateful. Additionally, Marx has also been serving as a board member for the last five years with the Great River Economic Development Foundation in Quincy, an organization that



PHOTO COURTESY OF TOM MARX

also provides assistance to new and existing business in the community.

Marx's wife, Kathie, and son, Josh, are family partners in Marx Commercial Development and TM and JM Commercial Properties. Marx states that they are both instrumental in the success of his companies and describes their contributions as "priceless." Marx describes his current business status as "full speed ahead," actively scoping out other commercial property acquisitions as well as new construction opportunities. He also says that he is very grateful for the workers and contractors who work for him as well as the bankers and boards of directors who have believed in his endeavors.

Marx enjoys going to concerts in his leisure time and loves the classic rock he grew up with. As for his business philosophy, he's as blunt as a John Bonham snare hit: "The world is full of opportunities. If you set your sights on something, stick with it, don't take no for an answer and be willing to work seven days a week if that is what it takes. Hard work does pay off. But most of all, it makes a difference when you enjoy what you do!" □

*Colin Patrick Brady is a freelance writer in Decatur.*

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## CHOCOLATE



The Cocoa Blue chocolatier shop opened in Rochester's former Town Hall building at 117 E. Main Street in December of 2013.

PHOTO BY GINNY LEE

# From the law to fine chocolates

By Ginny Lee

Chocolatier Joshua Becker opened Cocoa Blue Chocolates in Rochester in December of 2013 after an earlier career as an attorney. His chocolate delicacies range from truffles to espresso / chocolate bark to turtles and lattes. He makes milk chocolate items as well as delectable dark chocolate ones.

"The key is using good ingredients – cocoa solids and cocoa butter imported from Europe," Becker said. The shop's most popular truffles are vanilla, mint, raspberry and champagne. The hazelnut truffle alone is reason enough to drive out to Rochester from Springfield.

Becker, who lives with his family in Rochester, bought the former Town Hall building at 117 E. Main Street for his business after looking at various properties in the Springfield area. It just seemed to make sense to locate his business near his home, since he has three children and family is very important to him.

The Cocoa Blue shop has an open, friendly ambiance and has the feel of an old-fashioned family business. Becker employs four part-time people – all Rochester residents. Local artist Daniel Moore painted the whimsical mural on the east wall of the shop.

Becker grew up in LaMoille, Illinois, in Bureau County, and fell in love with Cecile Hendriks, who was then an exchange student from the Netherlands at his high school during his junior year. The following year he arranged to be an exchange student at Broekhuizen in the Netherlands to be near Cecile. It was here that he discovered the allure of fine chocolate, and his interest in chocolate began to grow.

The couple continued their romance through college. Becker graduated from Illinois State University with a degree in marketing. Cecile moved to the U.S. and the two were married in 1994. Cecile began medical school at Rush Medical College in Chicago, while Becker worked in sales and later earned a law degree at Chicago Kent College of Law. The couple moved to Wake Forest, North Carolina, for Cecile's medical residency where Becker worked as an attorney.

Becker practiced law in Springfield with

the Sgro, Hanrahan law firm, specializing in estate planning and elder law. Cecile is a neurologist at the Springfield Clinic.

After several heart-to-heart conversations with Cecile, Becker decided to pursue another career, as a chocolatier. "I couldn't have done this without my wife," he said. He enrolled at Le Cordon Bleu in St. Louis in April 2012 for a nine-month program.

Becker would put the couple's three children on the bus to school each morning after Cecile had left for work, then commute to St. Louis Monday through Friday for his 2-6 p.m. classes. "I commuted for seven months during the time that there was all that construction on I-55," he said.

The Cordon Bleu program included a two-month internship at a related business, so Patrick Groth at Incredibly Delicious in Springfield agreed to work with Becker. Patrick, 46, became an effective mentor for Becker, 41.

The Rochester storefront has been a good fit for Cocoa Blue Chocolates. "I love being part of my community," Becker said. "We live only five minutes away from the shop."

The Cocoa Blue building has only 800 square feet, but seems bigger. Becker designed the shop to have an open kitchen so customers can see how his chocolate products are made. Becker even has authentic cocoa bean pods in his display case.

Folks from the neighborhood trickle in throughout the day, and customers come from Jacksonville, Springfield, Decatur, Winchester, Sherman and Chatham. Recently Greg Boyle of Springfield dropped by to stock up on dark chocolate sea salt bars. Boyle shops at Cocoa Blue several times a month.

Part of Becker's business plan was to make Cocoa Blue a destination. Cocoa Blue's hours are 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Saturday. Hours will be extended in May. In warm weather they sell a high butterfat line of ice cream from The Chocolate Shop Ice Cream Company.

For more information visit [cocoabluechocolates.com](http://cocoabluechocolates.com). □

*Ginny Lee is a regular contributor to the Springfield Business Journal as a writer and photographer.*

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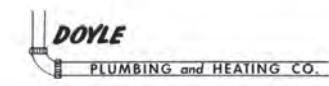
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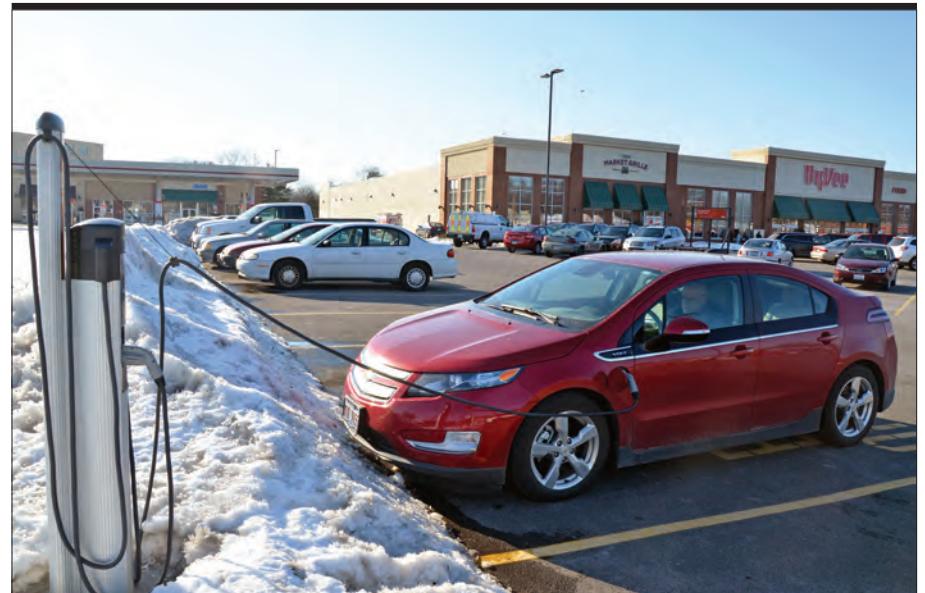
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## TRENDS



Larry Hughes of Athens, Illinois, charges his Chevy Volt in the parking lot of the Hy-Vee grocery store on S. MacArthur Boulevard while his wife, Mary, does their grocery shopping. They started using the charging station at Hy-Vee after they purchased their Volt.

PHOTO BY GINNY LEE

## Car charging stations pop up all over

By Ginny Lee

A couple of years ago, I test drove a Chevy Volt downtown at a special event at the state capital. I was impressed at how smoothly it handled but really hadn't thought much about electric cars since then. Then I noticed a charging station at Springfield Electric recently and another at the new Hy-Vee on S. MacArthur Boulevard. Turns out, there are quite a few around Springfield.

Springfield Electric (700 N. Ninth St.) has had its battery-charging station for two years. The company instituted an energy solutions team three years ago to facilitate energy savings, according to Darren Volle, LEED Green Associate at Springfield Electric.

Volle, who drives a Ford Fusion Energi hybrid, charges his car at work. Often electric car owners with jobs in the neighborhood leave their cars to charge while they are at work. "It's first come, first served," Volle said, "and there is no charge to charge a car." Their charger is a universal one for any electric car.

Folks who work at St. John's Hospital or the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency will often leave their vehicles at Springfield Electric to charge while they are at work, Volle said. A fellow driving an electric motorcycle cross-country once stopped to charge his battery. Springfield Electric's 240-volt charging station is open for use during business hours.

The Hy-Vee grocery store at 2115 S. MacArthur has two charging stations. Drivers need to register with the store to use it, but there is no fee.

Recently Larry Hughes of Athens sat in his Chevy Volt reading as his car charged at Hy-Vee and his wife shopped for groceries inside. "This car rides like a Cadillac, handles like a sports car and gets the mileage of a motorcycle," Larry said. "I can get 100 miles per gallon."

"We started using Hy-Vee since we got the Volt," Mary said. "I used to shop at Schnuck's but now we charge the car while shopping. Sometimes we have lunch here too."

Joseph Phegley, salesman at Friendly Chevrolet, explained that the "three t's" determine how long a battery will hold its charge – temperature, terrain and driving technique. Typically a Chevy Volt will take four to six hours to charge on a 220-volt station. Some Volt owners charge their batteries at home, which can take 10 to 12 hours on a 110-volt power outlet, he said.

Dale Wilburn, sales manager at Green Nissan, is an advocate of Nissan's electric car, the Leaf. Green Nissan has offered the Leaf for sale since 2013, and Wilburn, who lives in Auburn, drove one to work for six months. It is a great car for those who drive short distances, Wilburn said. "If you're going to Peoria or Chicago frequently, you're out of luck." The federal government gives a tax credit of \$7,500 for electric car buyers, and the state of Illinois gives a \$4,500 tax credit, according to Wilburn.

Master Technician and Shop Foreman Steve Nash of Nissan also is a fan of the electric car. "It benefits future generations with a much lower carbon footprint," he said. "You don't have waste oil to deal with. They have a gearbox, not a transmission. The maintenance cost is tremendously low. The biggest benefit is that with an electric motor you get maximum torque at very low rpm."

The parking lot south of the Stratton Building has two Schneider chargers adjacent to the guard shack just off the College Street entrance, a convenient amenity for workers at the Capitol complex.

There are eight Tesla charging stations in the parking lot at the Scheels store at 3801 S. MacArthur as of January.

Springfield may see even more stations as the electric car trend continues – particularly if gas prices start inching back up. □

Ginny Lee is a regular contributor to the Springfield Business Journal as a writer and photographer.

# Reporting on a political stage

By Eric Woods

John O'Connor has been a Springfield resident now for 21 years. He is a big fan of history and loves Springfield's rich historical background as well as the people of the city. O'Connor is sorry to see the loss of significant historical structures in the city. O'Connor hopes Springfield will continue to be a good place to raise a family while maintaining excellent public schools.

Growing up, O'Connor wanted to be both a baseball player and an actor. "Like most kids, my baseball dreams were dashed when they started throwing curveballs," he said. His first, and worst, job ever was at Kentucky Fried Chicken during high school. "It was nothing about the people or the chicken. It was just the nature of it." One accomplishment from high school of which O'Connor is quite proud is making first team all-conference in football his senior year. He started playing at age 10 and admittedly did not like the sport at first but worked extremely hard over the years.

O'Connor has been reporting off and on for 29 years. "The main thing we try to do is keep public officials accountable to the taxpayers. I monitor and write about the legislature and the governor, what they are doing, the bills they are passing, and the politics of it all," he said. Follow-up is an important part of what O'Connor does in his reporting. "When an officeholder

announces something, I like to come back a year later and see if it really happened." He understands that although everyone will not always like what he is writing or the people he may be writing about, he will always give his subjects a fair shot. A sense of fair play and treating people with respect were taught to O'Connor by his father.

As a veteran local actor, O'Connor has appeared in numerous lead roles at The Muni, Springfield Theatre Centre and New Salem's Theatre in the Park. Some of his favorites include Daddy Warbucks in *Annie*, Captain Hook in *Peter Pan*, John Wilkes Booth in *Assassins*, Judas in *Jesus Christ Superstar* and Willy Wonka in *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. He is excited to be returning to New Salem to portray Abraham Lincoln in *Mr. Lincoln*, a one-person performance being put on in association with the 150th anniversary of the Lincoln Funeral Coalition.

On a broader scale, O'Connor wants to know where humanity is headed. In spite of what he feels is popular opinion, he views people becoming nicer in the world. "You hear that people are rude, but I see the opposite," said O'Connor. "I see people helping one another a lot. Without helping each other the world would not make it."

Aspiring reporters would do well to study subjects beyond journalism. According to O'Connor, reporters should educate

themselves in mathematics, economics, political science and history. "Be as liberally educated as possible, because you will be called upon to write with authority on a number of issues," said O'Connor. "Be well read, and understand history and how it affects the present. Be flexible."

Times at the Associated Press are exciting now with the election of Gov. Bruce Rauner, according to O'Connor. "It is exciting to see the transitions he wants to make, and watching a Republican governor with a solidly Democratic legislature," he said. "The next few months will be telling."

Throughout his years of reporting, O'Connor feels he has gained a reputation as being a fairminded reporter who cares about the issues in the world and treats all sides fairly. Looking ahead, O'Connor is not sure whether he will be considering retirement or working with no end in sight. "I do not know if I will hang it up at retirement age or be one of those hangers-on," he said. Either way, he still intends to be a productive member of the community and someone with influence, whether it is through his reporting and writing or affecting people through theater. "Sometimes I reach more people from the stage than from what I report." □

*Eric Woods can be reached at ericw93@aol.com.*



## John O'Connor

Title: Reporter, Associated Press

Telephone: 217-789-2700

E-mail: joconnor@ap.org

Education: M.A. in public affairs reporting, journalism from Sangamon State University

### Favorites -

Hobby: Theater acting

Movie: *Rocky*

Sports team: St. Louis Cardinals and Chicago Bears

### Tidbits -

Will be performing as Abraham Lincoln in New Salem in April

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# DEEP IMPACT

## *How the University of Illinois affects Sangamon County's economy*

By Zach Baliva

A new study is demonstrating the economic impact of the University of Illinois Springfield. The study, conducted by Economic Modeling Specialists Inc., relied on academic reports, mathematical formulas, census data, labor statistics and surveys to measure job and income formation, earnings of former students, taxpayer returns and other factors. Now the university is touting the results, which show that UIS plays "a significant role in the economy of Sangamon County and is a sound investment for students, taxpayers, local business and society as a whole in Illinois."

In fiscal year 2013-14, the university added \$176.8 million in additional income to the local economy. During this year, UIS had 1,129 employees and a payroll of \$67.1 million. Some 19.7 percent of its student population relocated from outside the

county, and those students brought spending cash with them. During the analysis period, they spent \$5.9 million at local businesses – spending which would not have occurred without the university.

UIS Chancellor Susan J. Koch says she's satisfied with the results, but estimates students contribute even more to the community. "Student spending in the study is modest because the economists only looked at the spending of students that moved and lived here during the study year," she says. "It doesn't account for commuters who buy a Mel-O-Cream donut and fill up their gas tank on the way to campus."

For the reporting year, UIS served 6,455 credit students and 19 non-credit students. "Our largest impact is shown by what happens when you have thousands of students earning degrees, remaining in

the community, generating higher wages, raising their families here, and buying homes and groceries," says Koch. Although just 36 percent of graduates remain in Sangamon County, another 44 percent settle outside the county but in the state.

Koch says that UIS outranked other schools in similar studies thanks to a large population of graduate students. Almost half – 44 percent – of those at UIS are pursuing an advanced degree in a career they've started in the community. On average, doing so will increase their income by about \$20,000, as mean income at career midpoint in Sangamon County is \$63,300 for employees with a bachelor's degree and \$83,500 for those with a master's.

Tom Marantz calls the value of UIS in the community "underestimated," and says Springfield is "lucky" to have the institution. "They're a major employer and



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PHOTOS BY MARANDA POTTER

one of the city's growth industries that can replace some of what we're losing in state government jobs," he explains. Marantz is chairman of the board and CEO at Bank of Springfield, and has seen many full-time students and faculty members come to open accounts at his Stevenson branch.

But UIS provides more than just bank customers — Marantz is also tapping into the university's vast resources. He's invited faculty to educate and train his staff, and sends bank employees to campus through a tuition reimbursement program. In 2004, BOS created the Jack A. Marantz Memorial Scholarship Fund at UIS to help provide funds for student athletes.

Eighty percent of UIS students reported their working status as

"employed," and many turn to part-time work to accommodate their studies. Mike McGraw owns and operates 10 Springfield-area McDonald's restaurants with his parents, Rick and Dona

McGraw. Currently, a UIS baseball player works at his Toronto Road location. "We've had a great relationship with the university and are happy to support UIS because they invest in the community and improve the environment for everyone," he says, adding that athletic teams and other groups that come to and from campus often stop at McDonald's. When selecting a site for a new restaurant, McGraw says he and his competitors

Mike McGraw

consider many factors including adjacent interstates, traffic count and the health of local businesses. Sites close to a school or university are especially attractive.

While the university's reach is deep, Koch says the potential for growth is there as she eyes enrollment of 7,000 and beyond. Now, UIS is at 97 percent capacity and is working with a private developer to create a 90-bed unit with retail space across Eleventh Street from campus. She says that a long-planned student union will soon become the "social heart" of the campus and aid efforts in student recruitment and retention.

In an era of declining state support for higher education, UIS remains a good investment for taxpayers. The study found that every state and local taxpayer dollar spent on the university returns \$3.50 in added taxes and public sector savings. The net present value of the added tax revenue stemming from the graduates' higher lifetime incomes and the increased output of businesses amounts to \$58.6 million in benefits to taxpayers.

While the numbers are encouraging, Koch says it's important not to get lost in statistics. "The most important thing is our mission to provide a University of Illinois education to students," she says. "We have to remember that behind all the numbers in this study is a student. When they walk across the stage, shake my hand, and receive a degree, they change the course of history for themselves and for their families."

To access more from the UIS Economic Impact Survey and to read the full report, visit [www.uis.edu/impact/](http://www.uis.edu/impact/)

*Zach Baliva is a media producer and writer living in Springfield.*

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# Presidential affairs

**Farley settles in at Illinois College while MacMurray continues its search**

By Gabe House, Correspondent



Dr. Barbara Farley

PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.IC.EDU

Dr. Barbara Farley became the 14th president of Illinois College in June of 2013. The small liberal arts college founded in 1829 in Jacksonville came upon Farley through the nomination of a colleague of hers who believed she would be a good fit for the position.

"I knew the moment I stepped on

campus for the first time that I had found a new home," Dr. Farley wrote via email. "I attended a residential college similar to Illinois College (IC) and have spent my entire professional career working in private, higher education. My previous experience as a faculty member, academic dean and chief academic officer prepared me in important ways to lead Illinois College during this pivotal period of change in higher education."

Dr. Farley had previously served as vice president of academic affairs and dean at Augsburg College in Minneapolis. It was her latest – and perhaps penultimate – position in a professional life spent serving higher education over a span of 25 years.

Now, though, Dr. Farley is committed to playing a fundamental role in her students' lives at IC. In fact, Dr. Farley wrote, the ability to interact with students and the campus community was a large factor in why she felt it was such a good fit for her. She has also embraced technology by creating Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts to further expound on the virtues of the Illinois College and the students who attend.

"Illinois College's mission lives in all our students, in their achievements and in the inspiring lives they will lead as graduates,"

Dr. Farley wrote. "I believe in our students' dreams and will dedicate the rest of my career to promoting the success of IC students."

But, as with any college, students will graduate. Enrollment – Illinois College hosts approximately 1,000 students – is the lifeblood of any school, and to that end, Dr. Farley said her 18 months with Illinois College has led to a grass-roots "Strategy Map" with three major areas of focus.

"(The three are): 1) creating life-changing experiences for students that will lead to meaningful lives of leadership and service; 2) expanding visibility for the college to increase enrollment; and 3) building sustainable foundations that will help the college to thrive over the long-term," Dr. Farley wrote. "Our goal is to be recognized nationally as a residential liberal arts college for students who seek social mobility, opportunities for service and the courage to lead. Our graduates are going places and doing impressive work in the world."

Meanwhile, MacMurray College (also in Jacksonville) is currently searching for its next president after its current leader, Dr. Colleen Hester, announced her resignation in late 2014. Dr. Hester will stay until commencement in May, and the 16th

president of MacMurray will begin his or her work in July.

"The search is on schedule," said John Blythe, co-chair of the MacMurray presidential search committee. "There is a timeline, and we're exactly where we wanted to be in mid-March."

Blythe, an alumnus of the small private college, said the search was progressing as planned. Candidates were expected to be chosen, vetted and checked against their references beginning last month, culminating in off-site interviews with an end result of a semifinalist list.

MacMurray's presidential search webpage even has a prospectus that lists the varied attributes presidential candidates should possess, as well as facts about the school itself. The 500-student college naturally wants to expand its enrollment while maintaining its strong relationship with the United Methodist Church that began when the school was founded in 1846.

"To think we're looking for just our 16th president is fairly astounding," Blythe said. "What we're looking for is the right president for MacMurray College, the right fit." □

Gabe House is a freelance writer in Springfield.



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The LLCC Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation providing financial support to the educational programs and services at Lincoln Land Community College.

# COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Sources: The individual colleges / universities. 1 - Robert Morris University operates on an accelerated timetable of 5 quarters per year vs. Spring/Summer/Fall semesters. N/A - Not Available. (Ranked by Spring 2015 Enrollment)

| RANK | COLLEGE NAME<br>STREET ADDRESS<br>CITY/ST/ ZIP  | PHONE (-)<br>FAX (=)         | WEBSITE (www.)<br>E-MAIL   | TYPE OF INSTITUTION   | FALL 2014 SPRING<br>ENROLLMENT 2015<br>ENROLLMENT |                        | TUITION  | PRESIDENT / CHANCELLOR   | YEAR<br>EST'D |
|------|---|------------------------------|--|---|---|------------------------|--|--|---------------|
|      |   |                              |  |   | FALL 2014 ENROLLMENT                              | SPRING 2015 ENROLLMENT |  |  |               |
| 1    | <b>Lincoln Land Community College</b><br>5250 Shepherd Road, P.O. Box 19256<br>Springfield, IL 62794-9256                       | 217-786-2200<br>217-786=2829 | llcc.edu<br>info@llcc.edu  | Community college   | 7,035   | 7,149                  | \$103.50/credit hr.<br>(in-district residents)   | Charlotte J. Warren, Ph.D.,<br>president   | 1967          |
| 2    | <b>University of Illinois Springfield</b><br>One University Plaza<br>Springfield, IL 62703                                      | 217-206-6600<br>217-206=6511 | uis.edu<br>admissions@uis.edu  | Bachelor's & Master's degrees, one Doctoral degree  | 5,431   | 5,193                  | \$9,405 per year/full-time - undergraduate, \$319 per credit hour - graduate   | Susan J. Koch, Ed.D., Chancellor   | 1970          |
| 3    | <b>Illinois College</b><br>1101 W. College Ave.<br>Jacksonville, IL 62650   | 217-245-3030<br>217-245=3034 | ic.edu<br>admissions@ic.edu  | Four-year private, Liberal Arts   | 957   | 980                    | Tuition is \$31,110 and includes books. Total is \$40,850 with room, board and fees.   | Barbara A. Farley, Ph.D.   | 1829          |
| 4    | <b>Lincoln Christian University</b><br>100 Campus View Drive<br>Lincoln, IL 62656   | 217-732-3168<br>217-732=5718 | lincolchristian.edu<br>info@lincolchristian.edu                            | Four-year and post-graduate, private, offers Associate, Bachelor's, Master's degrees and Doctor of Ministry | 937   | 888                    | \$12,900 per year/full-time, \$20,334 with room and board - Undergraduate; \$418 per credit hour - graduate and seminary           | Don Green, D.Min.  | 1944          |
| 5    | <b>Benedictine University at Springfield</b><br>1500 N. Fifth St.<br>Springfield, IL 62702                                      | 217-525-1420<br>217-527=8015 | springfield.ben.edu<br>springweb@ben.edu                                   | Four-year, private, Liberal Arts, Catholic, Ph.D., Master's, Bachelor's and Associate's degrees             | 860   | N/A                    | \$13,650 per year  | William J. Carroll, Ph.D., pres.; Michael Bromberg, Springfield campus president | 1929          |
| 6    | <b>Lincoln College</b><br>300 Keokuk St.<br>Lincoln, IL 62656   | 217-732-3155<br>217-732=8859 | lincolncollege.edu   | Private, two-year, Liberal Arts college, accelerated Bachelor's degree program for working adults           | 600   | 520                    | \$17,700 per year  | John D. Blackburn  | 1865          |
| 7    | <b>Blackburn College</b><br>700 College Ave.<br>Carlinville, IL 62626   | 217-854-3231<br>217-854=5522 | blackburn.edu<br>admissions@blackburn.edu                                  | Four-year, private, Liberal Arts work college, Presbyterian affiliated                                      | 589   | 518                    | \$16,920 per year (less work credit), including fees, \$23,670 per year with room and board  | John L. Comerford, Ph.D.; Kelly Chaney, Ph. D., Interim Provost                  | 1837          |
| 8    | <b>MacMurray College</b><br>447 E. College Ave.<br>Jacksonville, IL 62650   | 217-479-7000<br>217-479=7017 | mac.edu<br>admissions@mac.edu  | Four-year, private, baccalaureate college, United Methodist   | 554   | DND                    | \$23,600 per year (includes fees), \$31,600 including room, board, meal plan. Tuition stays same 2nd year.                         | Colleen Hester, Ph.D., president   | 1846          |
| 9    | <b>SIU School of Medicine</b><br>801 N. Rutledge (main bldg.)<br>Springfield, IL 62702  | 217-545-8000<br>217-545=5538 | siumed.edu<br>admissions@siumed.edu  | Public education for medical students, graduate students, medical residents                                 | 226   | 287                    | \$14,578 per semester tuition only for In-State  | Kevin Dorsey M.D., Ph.D., Dean/Provost   | 1970          |
| 10   | <b>Robert Morris University<sup>1</sup></b><br>3101 Montvale Drive<br>Springfield, IL 62704                                     | 217-793-2500<br>217-793=4210 | robertmorris.edu   | Private, not-for-profit, offers Bachelor's, Associate's and Master's degrees                                | 158   | 120                    | \$7,900 per quarter/full-time, \$2,500 per class/graduate  | Michael P. Violtt  | 1913          |
| 11   | <b>St. John's College</b><br>729 E. Carpenter St.<br>Springfield, IL 62702  | 217 525-5628<br>217 757=6870 | stjohnscollegespringfield.edu<br>information@stjohnscollegespringfield.edu | Private, not-for-profit, Upper Division, 2 year program of Bachelor of Science in Nursing                   | 119   | 89                     | \$8,515 / semester - BS Nursing - 2 yr. program / Second Degree Accelerated Prelicensure; \$417 / hour - Online RN to BSN program. | Brenda Recchia Jeffers, Ph.D., R.N.  | 1886          |
| 12   | <b>SIU Carbondale - LL Distance Education / Off-Campus Program</b><br>2450 Foundation Drive, Suite 100<br>Springfield, IL 62703 | 217-303-5855<br>217-786=3020 | wed.siu.edu<br>mvicher@siu.edu   | Bachelor's & Master's degree in Workforce Education & Development   | 42  | 32                     | \$354/credit hr. undergrad, plus fees & books 30 hour program  | Randy Dunn, Ph.D.  | 2012          |
| 13   | <b>ITT Technical Institute</b><br>2501 Wabash Ave.<br>Springfield, IL 62704   | 217-547-5700<br>217-547=5750 | itt-tech.edu   | College, private, for-profit  | N/A   | N/A                    | \$18,048/year - full-time, first-time, undergraduate students  | Jason Thoron, College Director   | 2012          |

# \$10K MBA=A-OK

## Benedictine University targets adult students

By Roberta Codemo

Benedictine University at Springfield gives working adults an alternative to traditional Master of Business Administration programs. The \$10K MBA program launched in April 2014 and will graduate its first class in August.

Adults have problems finding affordable graduate degree programs and "this is a need we can fill," said Janet Richter, associate director of adult accelerated enrollment. "Introducing the \$10K MBA was about the evolving needs of graduate business students."

Interested students need a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution and a 2.75 minimum GPA. Each student is evaluated individually based on official transcripts from every post-high school institution attended, a professional resume showing five years of business experience, two letters of reference and a one-page goal statement stating how the MBA will help them achieve their personal and professional goals.

The accelerated format lets students complete their degree in 18 months. Nicole Selinger, executive director of marketing and communications, said business professionals don't have to go into a lot of debt to get their MBA. "With the rising cost of education, Benedictine offers an affordable and attainable

education for adult learners," she said.

Benedictine has offered an MBA for more than 35 years and has more than 5,000 alumni. It was ranked as the sixth largest MBA program in the Chicago area in 2014 by *Crain's Chicago Business*.

"The response in central Illinois to the \$10K MBA has been tremendous," said Richter. The next class starts in April and plans are to offer another in June or July. To date, 100 students have enrolled in the first year and there will be 28 students in the August graduating class.

The blended format combines weekly classroom sessions with online learning, which meets the needs of working adults. It incorporates "next generation" learning technology with "problem-based learning" activities that encourage students to work on real-life problems and issues. Graduates are prepared to become leaders within their organizations or entrepreneurs.

Students don't need a previous business degree to benefit. "An MBA applies to every walk of life," said Richter, who has seen many non-business majors enroll in the program. She has seen a broad spectrum of students with degrees ranging from theology to nursing to psychology. "It fits every career in some way or other."

"It creates a rich learning environment," added Selinger. The program brings together people from diverse backgrounds and exposes students to different viewpoints and ways of thinking.

Classes are held year-round. Students in a cohort move through the program together. Everything is planned and students take one class at a time. "It creates a support network," said Selinger. Students form bonds that last beyond the classroom.

The rigorous program demands students put in as many hours of independent work as they spend in the classroom and online. Students need to be highly motivated.

"You find students who come back as adults have a certain degree of motivation," said Selinger. "They have a clear sense of what education can do for them." They are willing to balance work, home and community obligations to achieve their personal and professional goals.

Richter finds students are motivated by the accelerated timeframe. "They see the light at the end of the tunnel, they are able to immediately apply what they learn in the workplace and they have a plan for graduation," said Richter.

Stephanie Spann will start the program in April. An office manager for the Illinois

Community College Trustees Association, she has dreamed of getting her MBA since high school. "Education is very important to me," she said.

A Springfield native, she wanted to continue her education close to home. Part of it is a desire to approach education in an "old school" way. "I wanted to be able to step foot on campus," said Spann, who added it has been a long time since she has been in a classroom.

Spann is pursuing her degree for personal reasons and says it will help her become a better, more well-rounded person. She sees herself being in the workforce another 20 years. "Why not take the opportunity to better myself?" she asked. "I'm always looking for ways to improve."

She was accepted into the MBA program at the University of Illinois Springfield, where she received a bachelor of arts degree in management. However, she liked the accelerated program at Benedictine. "It was more in line with my goals," said Spann, who didn't want to spend seven or eight years earning her MBA when she could complete it at Benedictine in 18 months.

This program will let her continue to work full time and earn her MBA in a short amount of time. She will also be able to draw on her

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### Illinois Women in Leadership (IWIL)

IWIL will hold its monthly luncheon from 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 16 from 11:30 a.m. -1 p.m. at the Sangamo Club. Julie Davis will be speaking on the topic "Making the World a Better Place: Letters to our Younger Selves. The cost for members is \$18. Non-members and walk-ins are \$23. Reservation forms are available at [www.iwil.biz](http://www.iwil.biz).

### Women Entrepreneurs of Central Illinois

WE-CI will hold its monthly meeting on Wednesday, April 8th, from 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at the Sangamo Club. Maureen Bluhm, General Manager of White Oaks Mall; will speak on "Team Building & Motivating Your Staff." She brings her 25+ years' experience of practical methods to this subject all business owners face. The cost for the meeting is \$15 for members, \$10 for guests, and \$20 for walk-ins. Make your reservations at [reservations@we-ci.org](mailto:reservations@we-ci.org).

### Women of Influence

Security Bank and Springfield Business Journal will host the 12th annual Women of Influence awards, honoring women in our local community, on Tuesday, May 12 from 5:30-7 p.m. at the Inn at 835. There will be a reception followed by a brief awards ceremony. RSVP to [info@springfieldbusinessjournal.com](mailto:info@springfieldbusinessjournal.com).



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work experience. "The 30 years I've been in the field will mean something," said Spann.

Spann hopes this program will be a good fit and believes it will open up new ways of thinking and let her see things from a different perspective. "It's going to be an adjustment going back to school after 20 years," she said. "I'm nervous and excited all at the same time."

According to campus administrator Susie Doddek, the decision to focus on adult non-traditional degree programs was in response to market opportunities in the adult education sector, and the financial realities of providing traditional undergraduate education. "The university felt there were significant and substantive opportunities to

fulfill the education needs of adults students, who are increasingly seeking progressive ways to address needs that aren't being met by the conventional model of higher education," she wrote in an email.

"Market research indicated that while central Illinois had numerous traditional higher education opportunities, the working adult still had difficulty finding accessible and affordable nontraditional undergraduate and graduate degree programs," continued Doddek.

Benedictine expects the adult learner market to experience rapid growth over the next 10 years. Doddek wrote that the university will continue to assess the marketplace to see which new adult

programs to support. It is currently looking at the business, health care and organizational behavior areas. "The \$10K MBA program has been very successful since its launch," continued Doddek.

The Moser College of Adult and Professional Studies opened in 1996 on the main campus in Lisle and changed its name to the National Moser Center for Adult Learning in 2014. It oversees all adult programming on all Benedictine University campuses and has seen an almost 70 percent increase in enrollment. The Springfield campus offers four adult undergraduate programs, three graduate programs and one doctoral program.

Doddek continued, "We believe that we will continue to meet the needs of adult

learners by offering programs that they, and current and future employers, truly consider valuable, and are affordable, accessible and attainable."

Prospective students can learn more at a monthly informational session. Go to [www.ben.edu/moser/central-illinois/events.cfm](http://www.ben.edu/moser/central-illinois/events.cfm) for upcoming dates. For more information about the program, contact Janet Richter at 217.718.5276 or email her at [jrichter@ben.edu](mailto:jrichter@ben.edu). You can learn more about the \$10K MBA program at [www.ben.edu/10kmaba/](http://www.ben.edu/10kmaba/). □

*Roberta Codemo is a full-time freelance writer and started Codemo Writing Services in 2012. She can be reached at [rcodemo@hotmail.com](mailto:rcodemo@hotmail.com).*

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# INDEPENDENT PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Sources: Sangamon County School Directory; the individual schools.  
(Ranked by Current Enrollment - March 2015)

|    | SCHOOL NAME<br>STREET ADDRESS<br>CITY/ST/ZIP  | PHONE (-)<br>FAX (=)         | WEBSITE (www.)<br>E-MAIL       | CURRENT<br>ENROLLMENT | PRINCIPAL / DIRECTOR  | GRADES      | AFFILIATION                    | YEAR<br>EST'D |
|----|---|------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|---|-------------|--------------------------------|---------------|
| 1  | <b>Sacred Heart-Griffin High School</b><br>1200 W. Washington<br>Springfield, IL 62702            | 217-787-1595<br>217-787=9856 | shg.org                        | 725                   | Sr. Katherine O'Connor, O.P., Pres.; Sr. Margaret Joanne Grueter, O.P., Principal | 9-12        | Catholic                       | 1895          |
| 2  | <b>Blessed Sacrament Elementary</b><br>748 W. Laurel Ave.<br>Springfield, IL 62704                | 217-522-7534<br>217-522=7542 | bssbruins.org                  | 507                   | Kathy Lynn Wear   | Preschool-8 | Catholic                       | 1925          |
| 3  | <b>Christ The King Elementary</b><br>1920 Barberry Drive<br>Springfield, IL 62704                 | 217-546-2159<br>217-546=0291 | ctkcougars.com                 | 404                   | Pam Fahey   | PK-8        | Catholic                       | 1957          |
| 4  | <b>St. Agnes Elementary</b><br>251 N. Amos Ave.<br>Springfield, IL 62702                          | 217-793-1370<br>217-793=1238 | stagnescatholicschool.org      | 390                   | Sister Joan Sorge, O.P.   | PK-8        | Catholic                       | 1897          |
| 5  | <b>Springfield Christian School</b><br>2850 Cider Mill Lane<br>Springfield, IL 62702              | 217-698-1933<br>217-698=1931 | springfieldchristianschool.org | 350                   | Sheri Hall, Principal; Jeremiah Auble, Superintendent                             | K-8         | Christian                      | 1951          |
| 6  | <b>Calvary Academy</b><br>1730 W. Jefferson<br>Springfield, IL 62702                              | 217-546-5987<br>217-321=1063 | caspringfield.org              | 300                   | Dr. Jay Hinckley, Principal; Donna Squires, Education Director                    | PK3-12      | Christian Non-Denominational   | 1977          |
| 7  | <b>Our Savior's Lutheran School</b><br>2645 Old Jacksonville Road<br>Springfield, IL 62704        | 217-546-4531<br>217-546=0293 | oursaviors-school.org          | 240                   | Jill Gerberding   | PK-8        | Lutheran                       | 1962          |
| 8  | <b>Little Flower Catholic School</b><br>900 Stevenson Drive<br>Springfield, IL 62703              | 217-529-4511<br>217-529=0405 | little-flower.org              | 218                   | Stacie Reichensperger   | PK-8        | Catholic                       | 1948          |
| 9  | <b>St. Aloysius Elementary</b><br>2125 N. 21st St.<br>Springfield, IL 62702                       | 217-544-4553<br>217-544=1680 | saintaloyius.org               | 172                   | Jean Kennedy  | Preschool-8 | Catholic                       | 1928          |
| 10 | <b>Cathedral School</b><br>815 S. Sixth St.<br>Springfield, IL 62703                              | 217-523-2652<br>217-523=2750 | cathedralschoolil.org          | 160                   | Rita Fuchs  | PK-8        | Catholic                       | 1928          |
| 11 | <b>Trinity Lutheran School &amp; Preschool</b><br>515 S. MacArthur Blvd.<br>Springfield, IL 62704 | 217-787-2323<br>217-787=1145 | trinity-lutheran.com           | 155                   | Lewis Rodgers   | Preschool-8 | Lutheran                       | 1860          |
| 12 | <b>Lutheran High School</b><br>3500 W. Washington<br>Springfield, IL 62711                        | 217-546-6363<br>217-546=6589 | spiluhi.org                    | 150                   | Steve Zielke, Principal   | 9-12        | Lutheran                       | 1979          |
| 13 | <b>Montessori Children's House</b><br>4147 Sand Hill Road<br>Springfield, IL 62702                | 217-544-7702<br>217-544=5502 | montessorispringfield.org      | 85                    | Sue Harris, Director  | PK-6        | NonSectarian                   | 1977          |
| 14 | <b>Concordia Lutheran</b><br>2300 Wilshire Road<br>Springfield, IL 62703                          | 217-529-3309<br>217-529=3096 | concordiasfld.org              | 74                    | Mark Ploss  | Preschool-8 | Lutheran Church Missouri Synod | 1931          |
| 15 | <b>St. Patrick Catholic School</b><br>1800 South Grand Ave. E.<br>Springfield, IL 62703           | 217-523-7670<br>217-523=0760 | st-patrick.org                 | 60                    | Sarah Stanley, Principal  | PK-5        | Catholic                       | 1910          |

# Campus leader believes in education and Springfield

By Eric Woods

Arriving in Springfield almost four years ago from north Michigan, Dr. Susan Koch has enjoyed the friendliness of the local community. She feels it is an easy place to live compared to larger cities and is looking forward to spring and what warmer weather brings. "We love living in the community that has the State Fair," she said.

As an active member of the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce and their Q5 Strategic Leadership Council, Koch has seen the economic challenges facing not only Springfield but Illinois as a whole. "We want to provide great employment opportunities to young people graduating college," she said. "There is a challenge for graduates to provide their young families an opportunity to have a good quality of life and the economic opportunities that lead to that."

Growing up, Koch had a number of career goals. "Where I grew up everyone wanted to be a cowgirl. For a while it was a veterinarian, and I was also interested in being a teacher," she said. Her first job was as a carhop for A&W making 35 cents an hour. "That was a lot of money. But there were no roller skates since the parking lot was gravel."

Koch has spent a number of years in the education field, holding high level positions

at the University of Northern Iowa as well as Northern Michigan University before her appointment as chancellor for the University of Illinois Springfield (UIS) in 2011. As chancellor, she is responsible for all operations on campus. This includes academics, the campus, student services and community outreach. Koch also serves as a vice president of the University of Illinois and is a member of the president's cabinet. Koch is very excited about the growth of the university. "We are adding vitality to the campus. It is wonderful to be part of something that is growing," she said. Koch admits that she is always excited to see what the spring semester will bring. "The whole year culminates in commencement." Outside of UIS, Koch is a member of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities and also serves on the board of Memorial Medical Center, United Way of Central Illinois, and the Illinois Symphony Orchestra.

Being a visible presence on campus is very important to Koch. She has established programs such as Chocolate with the Chancellor and other campus forums where the campus community has the opportunity to talk with her. There is also a Chancellor's Blog, and Koch is leading the initiative

to build a student union facility which is scheduled to open in the fall of 2016.

For anyone hoping for a career in education, Koch advises to study the field. "Earn credentials that will qualify you to be the best educator you can be," she said. "People should look at the best teachers they had in their lives and understand the characteristics that helped that person to be a great teacher. Emulate that person."

Koch tries to live each day to its fullest. "See every day as a gift to be used and hopefully not squandered," she said. Koch grew up in a very hard working family that valued education. "Really try to do the best at whatever you are doing. You are here for a reason, and your life has meaning. You can control at least some of the things you do in life." Her bucket list includes visiting Morocco and running a marathon.

Koch and her husband enjoy retreating to their farm in Iowa whenever they have a break. "It is a wonderful refuge built in 1900. This is where our cattle are," she said. "We look forward to hanging out at the farm." The farm will play host to a family reunion in August, about which Koch is very excited. □

*Eric Woods can be reached at ericw93@aol.com.*



## Susan Koch

Title: Chancellor, University of Illinois Springfield  
Address: 1 University Plaza, Springfield, Ill., 62703  
E-mail: koch@uis.edu

Education: Ph.D in Community Health and Education from the University of Northern Iowa  
Family: Husband - Dennis; Children - Christina, Michael, Elizabeth, and Rachel; nine grandchildren

Favorites -  
Hobby: Reading  
Movie: *The Princess Bride*  
Author: Nina Burleigh

Tidbits -  
Enjoys sewing and collecting fabrics  
Raises and shows purebred Angus cattle along with her husband  
Plays piano

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# Nursing the future of the Springfield medical community

By Eric Woods



From left to right: Instructor Janice Badgett, professor of nursing at Lincoln Land, students Tara McDaniel, Lindsay Smith and Kevin Burke.

PHOTO BY ERIC WOODS

The medical community in Springfield seems to be ever-growing, bringing with it a need for more professionals in the field, especially in the area of nursing. Springfield already houses programs for prospective nursing students at Lincoln Land Community College and SIU School of Medicine (through Southern Illinois University Edwardsville). Another local opportunity for those hoping to enter this field has also recently been introduced.

The University of Illinois Springfield (UIS) has announced that it is partnering with the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) and their college of nursing to offer a bachelor's degree on the Springfield campus. Nursing students would learn not only in UIS classrooms but will also have access to facilities located at area hospitals, including a new clinical simulation center for nursing at Memorial Medical Center. The four-

year program begins with 57 credit hours of pre-nursing coursework and general education courses. Those who successfully complete the first two years can then apply for admission to the UIC College of Nursing. If accepted they will spend the next two years completing 63 more credit hours in the nursing curriculum. Completion of the entire four-year program will earn students a bachelor's degree in nursing.

According to Lori Benedict, undergraduate academic advisor at UIS, a small group of students began taking some of the necessary prerequisites last fall. "We have some current students following the road maps we created," she said. The first group of nursing students eligible to begin the nursing coursework should begin in the fall of 2016 with an outlook of May 2018 to complete the program. "As soon as the announcement was made, we started

hearing from students." Benedict also said that the university is looking for students who are starting fresh into the program and not ones transferring from other institutions. Roughly 32 students are expected to be admitted to the first eligible UIC program with the number gradually increasing each year.

Prospective nursing students may also take the two-year path through Lincoln Land Community College (LLCC), which offers an associate degree in nursing (ADN). Graduates of this program are eligible to take the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-RN), the state licensing examination to become a registered professional nurse. There is also an LPN to ADN transition program for licensed practical nurses wishing to become registered professional nurses as well as a practical nurse certificate program, and a one-course basic nurse assistant certificate

program for those seeking employment as assistants to nurses. "We have more applicants than seats available in the ADN, LPN to ADN, and practical nurse programs," said Lynn Whalen, executive director of public relations and marketing. "Graduates of the ADN program are able to enter directly into the workforce as registered nurses. It is the most cost-effective way to earn an accredited nursing degree and become a registered nurse."

According to Whalen, LLCC has agreements with multiple bachelor's degree nursing programs at four-year colleges allowing for an easy transition for graduates. She added that their students are highly encouraged to finish their bachelor's degrees when the opportunity presents itself. Justin Reichert, chairman of the board at LLCC, is among those looking at the benefits of four-year nursing degrees. "The Illinois Community College trustees association and Illinois Community College presidents council are considering whether four-year degrees make sense for specific programs or certifications, but it is still in the consideration phase," he said. "Given the popularity of four year nursing degrees with employers and LLCC's ability to produce great nursing students, this is an area that could make sense to offer a four-year degree."

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE) offers a School of Nursing in Springfield not only for undergraduate but also graduate nursing students. Both live-video conferencing and traditional lectures are utilized. The SIUE program provides access to the SIU School of Medicine facilities for their nursing students.

Springfield is becoming known for its medical community, and the local colleges have taken steps to continue educating those entering the nursing field. According to Susan Koch, chancellor of UIS, "This partnership will bring one of the top-ranked schools for nursing in the country to Springfield, while helping to further boost undergraduate enrollment growth at UIS." □

Eric Woods can be reached at ericw93@aol.com.

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# Entrepreneurs in training

*Participants describe the Sangamon CEO program in their own words*

Photos by Sarah Petty



## What is Sangamon CEO?

By Claudia Dinardo,  
Auburn High School

Sangamon CEO [creating entrepreneurial opportunities] is a collaboration of businesses and school districts in Sangamon County. The program includes 25 students from Auburn, Lanphier, Rochester, SHG, Springfield High, Southeast and Tri-City. The students meet every morning from 7:20 a.m. to 8:50 a.m. at

various businesses in Springfield. They hear from speakers each day who focus on topics like marketing, advertising, real estate, personal finance and the making of a business plan. The class puts on an event in January and is now working on creating 25 individual businesses.



## CEO culture

By Matthew Briggs,  
Rochester High School

Sangamon CEO is the best program this town has ever had to teach young entrepreneurial students how to interact with businesspeople within a professional world. In the professional world there are some basic cultural elements professional individuals must follow. Sangamon CEO teaches local high school seniors everything from professional dress to the proper way to conduct business interactions. Dress is one

of the first issues Sangamon CEO addresses. The first step to being professional is looking the part. Throughout the year, the class has learned that to create a healthy culture within a business there needs to be open communication between all divisions of the business as well as with all individuals who work within the business. The best part is that everything the class learns is constantly being applied.



## Typical day

By Gariel Pierce,  
Southeast High School

In Sangamon CEO there really isn't a "typical" day. Every day is something new. If we are not touring a local business, we are at a host site learning more about business and business mentality. A class filled with 25 different personalities can be a handful, but every day we are trying to reach our full potential. CEO requires us

to always be attentive in class and engage with the speakers. Every day I have to use professionalism and business behavior in class. Sangamon CEO is worth waking up at 5:30 a.m. every day, because you are getting a ticket that not everyone has the privilege of getting.



## Networking

By Luke Henebry,  
Tri-City High School

We live in a society in which it is not what you know but rather who you know that sets you apart. One of the most important aspects of Sangamon CEO and the CEO program in general is networking. Throughout the duration of the program we are able to build a network of successful and experienced business people. We encounter them as investors in the program, board members,

mentors, speakers during class, or people we introduce ourselves to at the various business functions we attend. The people we meet are willing to help us with anything we need as long as we are willing to ask. It is not only our current network but the ability to build a network and be comfortable speaking to others that has made this program vital to the students selected to partake in it.



## Speaking skills

By Claire Martin,  
Springfield High School

As a member of Sangamon CEO, each student is held to a higher standard and expectation than your average high school senior, especially when it comes to public speaking. Throughout my high school career I felt intimidated when it came to socializing with adults or speaking in front of groups. I was extremely self conscious about my choice of words and fearful of sounding like a kid with my overuse of "like" and "um." We were introduced to a speaking

club called Toastmasters which taught us how to incorporate these skills into our everyday life. As a CEO student we are regularly speaking one-on-one with major businesspeople in our community, along with presenting details about Sangamon CEO to large audiences, or socializing at business events. With these opportunities came growth and improvement and I have watched myself transform into a confident speaker and go-getter. I owe it all to CEO.

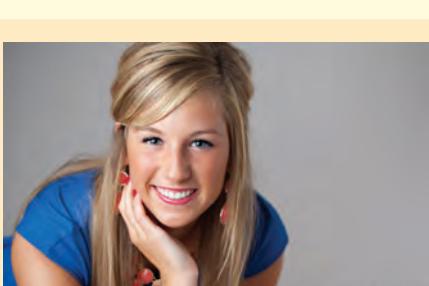


## Class business

By Jade Sisti,  
Lanphier High School

For our class business, we held an event at the LRS airplane hangar on Jan. 10. There were many different successful aspects of this event. People could view Mr. Richard Levi's amazing car collection, and bid on donated silent auction items. They could also sit and listen to our guest speaker, Timothy Taylor from NASA, discuss

entrepreneurship while enjoying delicious hors d'oeuvres provided by Bentoh's. This event was very successful due to the large number of people who attended. More than \$25,000 was raised during this event which was used to help fund our individual businesses created during the second semester of the class.



## Individual business/ second semester

By Danielle Schmitt,  
Sacred Heart-Griffin

A major requirement of CEO is to start and run one's own individual business. Our first semester project at the hangar raised seed money for our businesses. As second semester began, our class began to use the information we learned first semester to start creating our own individual business. We have to think of the idea and then run it ourselves. After we start creating our business, we have to write our own

business plan and present it to a banker. My individual business is called Dreamy Designs by Danielle. I am creating and sewing pillows myself. My pillows range from about \$15 to \$35. All of my pillows are customizable and can be made in any shape or fabric someone wants. By creating and running our own business, we have real-world experience and get to see what it is like to be a part of the business world.

## NEW BUSINESS LISTINGS

|  |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|---|
| <b>Daltny Trucking</b><br>18120 St. Rt 4, Thayer<br>741-2850<br>Business Owner: William S. Whalen                            | <b>Sound Gear Warehouse</b><br>225 Oakwood Lane, Williamsville<br>241-0222<br>Business Owner: John Cota            | <b>Goatee Train Productions</b><br>1936 Holmes Ave.<br>816-3390<br>Business Owner: Jason Rein  | <b>Clearview Properties</b><br>1609 Clearview Drive<br>652-2972<br>Business Owners: Bobby M. Tucker,<br>Stephanie D. Tucker |
| <b>Armstrong's Cleaning Service</b><br>309 W. Church, Pleasant Plains<br>381-4588<br>Business Owner: Kristi L. Armstrong     | <b>The Hair Studio</b><br>2659 S. 11th<br>502-9489<br>Business Owner: Jade Ebert                                   | <b>Optim Dental LLC</b><br>907 South 6th Street<br>971-3432<br>Business Owner: Srinivas Durshanapalli                                  | <b>Jessie's Daycare</b><br>2064 N 5th Street<br>210-2001<br>Business Owner: Jessica R Peters                                |
| <b>Shelton Heating &amp; Cooling</b><br>320 Timber Ridge Road, Mechanicsburg<br>899-7730<br>Business Owner: Joshua L Shelton | <b>Mad Hatter Tattoo</b><br>1409 S. 5th Street<br>572-1505<br>Business Owner: Jim Hatfield                         | <b>PreWire Network Cabling and Communications</b><br>161 E. Monroe St., Auburn<br>220-2472<br>Business Owner: Erick H. Millholland Jr. | <b>MRI</b><br>318 E. Sycamore, Thayer<br>899-1657<br>Business Owner: Jeremy Madsen  |
| <b>Zach Roberts Heating and Air Conditioning</b><br>3845 Brickler Road<br>899-4853<br>Business Owner: Zachary M. Roberts     | <b>Mane Event Promotions</b><br>2406 Knoxville Dr<br>899-6332<br>Business Owners: Hannah Draughan, Andrew Draughan | <b>White Tornado Cleaning &amp; Organizing</b><br>420 E Cordelia St<br>553-0337<br>Business Owner: Cynthia Wiessing                    | <b>Prairieland Mini Storage</b><br>2171 S. 9th St.<br>747-0068<br>Business Owner: Courtney K. Joyner                        |
| <b>Bounce Time</b><br>220 Middleburg Drive, Sherman<br>415-1448<br>Business Owner: Angela Phillips                           |  |  |   |

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Business Owner: Angela Phillips

**Mulligan's 24 Hr Towing Service**  
4001 Color Plant Road  
741-0087  
Business Owner: James D Mulligan

**Constant Remodeling & Maintenance Services**  
1125 W. Edwards  
414-6854  
Business Owners: Desetra Constant,  
Jeffrey Constant

**J Entertainment**  
2810 York Rd.  
381-8125  
Business Owner: Shawn D. Jackson

**The Ledge Consulting**  
949 Clocktower  
801-9366  
Business Owner: RMSCI Inc.

**J N Construction Services**  
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Business Owner: Josh Nyboer

**Lawn Boss**  
3524 Benbrook Dr  
899-5410  
Business Owner: Justin A Albert

**Mr Lawn Care and More**  
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331-2331  
Business Owners: Adam C Rickman,  
Gregory A Morris Jr

**Remember When**  
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891-3469  
Business Owners: Samantha Haynes,  
Karen Herr

**Favor Management Consulting**  
13 Fairview Lane  
415-8086  
Business Owner: Earlesa Branham

**Kinkade Enterprises**  
1635 W. Governor  
891-2882  
Business Owners: Scott D. Kinkade,  
Taylor E. Kinkade

**Site Flow Designs**  
4013 Hazelcrest Rd.  
679-0478  
Business Owner: Brian Ortman

**CarrieOut**  
108 Goldenrod Drive, Chatham  
691-2768  
Business Owner: Carrie Taylor Cross

## Clean Out – Cash In

536 Karen Rose Drive, Rochester  
381-2533  
Business Owner: Victoria E. Inghram

If time is money, Victoria Inghram hopes to cash in on customers willing to pay for convenience.

She's started a business called Clean Out – Cash In where for a fee she'll sell merchandise on Craigslist or any other location of the customer's choosing.

The Rochester High School senior is a member of the Sangamon CEO entrepreneurial program (see p. 23) and her second semester project might be sending her right to the head of the class.

In business for about two months, Inghram says she's had no shortage of clients even though she has yet to do any advertising.

Her business model is simple. For a percentage of the sale price, Victoria meets with the clients, signs a contract and takes pictures of the item for an online ad. Then, depending on the agreement, she either takes the merchandise and sells it from her own home or leaves it with the customer for them to sell.

Victoria says she's been surprised at how successful her new business has been in such a brief time. "The first night actually I sold an air compressor for my grandfather and his business. Literally 30 minutes after I posted it online, I got an email asking "is this still available? I'd like to buy this."



Victoria Inghram

PHOTOS BY MARK THOMA

Inghram says that eventually she'd like her website, [cleanoutcashin.com](http://cleanoutcashin.com), to act as an online catalog of local merchandise she's selling through Craigslist and perhaps eventually grow it into a local version of eBay.

What stops these customers from simply posting the ad themselves? Victoria has a quick, simple answer. "Nobody has time to do that these days." □

## Lisa Lu Designs

327 S. Douglas  
416-1970  
Business Owners: Lisa Cannon, Ryan Cannon

An experienced graphic designer incorporating her talents as a professional photographer into her growing business; a newlywed bringing her husband's talents as a woodworker into her graphic design business; a cancer survivor relaunching her home-based business amid hopes to buy a studio with offices in the near future.

All of the above describe Lisa Cannon, who began doing business as Lisa Lu Designs in early March.

Cannon, who had already been designing logos, business cards and brochures, specializes in wedding invitations and bridal stationary. When she married her husband, Ryan, in August they began offering custom imprints of wedding invitations burnt into wood with the help of a laser cutter. She says this new product has been a big hit among clients. Cannon enjoys working with brides on custom wedding stationary design. "Brides like the custom feature. I don't repeat designs, everything is made from the ground up for each individual client. I specialize in creating something unique for each client and really focusing on them and what their style is. It's not about me, it's about my client."



Lisa Cannon

Cannon also brings three years of experience in wedding photography and family portraiture to the table but maintains that while graphic design with an emphasis on bridal finery is still her first love she is far from finicky. "It's hard for me to turn down any design job," she admits. Contact information can be found at [lisaludesigns.com](http://lisaludesigns.com). □

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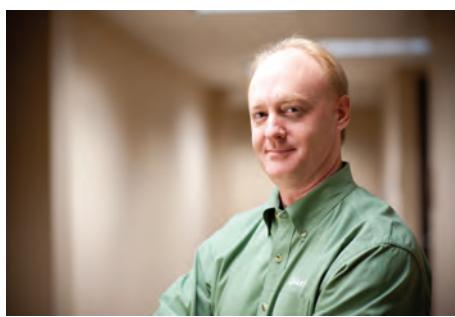
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**Sikich LLP names Tom Krehbiel as partner-in-charge of firm-wide CPA Services**

Sikich LLP, a leading professional services firm specializing in accounting, technology, investment banking and advisory services, recently named Tom Krehbiel as the partner-in-charge of CPA services firm-wide. Krehbiel, a CPA and Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA), previously served as the partner-in-charge of CPA services at the firm's Springfield office and as that office's partner-in-charge. He has more than 28 years of experience serving clients in all industries, and he offers assurance and advisory services, nonprofit audit and accounting services and information technology risk management services. He specializes in performing Service Organization Controls (SOC) 1, SOC 2 and SOC 3 engagements. In his new role, Krehbiel will work with CPA partners across the firm to standardize processes and procedures for areas that include billing, project management, client and staff communication and staffing and resource allocation. In addition, he will assist partners in the development and implementation of firm-wide best practices.

**Heartland Credit Union now offering wealth management services**

Heartland Financial Services, a division of Heartland Credit Union, is aimed at providing union members with investment services. Financial advisor Tate Hartman will be responsible for leading the division. The new division is ready to assist clients with employer-sponsored retirement plans, individual retirement accounts, investment brokerage services, college savings plans, trust accounts, and insurance products and services. As the financial advisor, Hartman will work with clients to determine their financial goals and create customized plans to help them reach those goals. He can be reached by phone at 217-726-2101 x267 or via email at thartman@heartlandfinancialservices.org.

**H. D. Smith announces executive structure changes**

H. D. Smith, the largest independent wholesaler in the U.S. and a leading pharmaceutical brand support company, today announced changes to its executive leadership structure, to capitalize on its growth momentum and continue to pursue a long-term vision as an integrated provider of health products, solutions and services through strong performance, acquisitions, and alliances with health care innovators. H. D. Smith has an established presence in the health institution, pharmacy and specialty medicine sectors, and is working with most of the nation's drug innovators

and providers of cost-effective medicine. Dale Smith will now serve as the Chairman and CEO of HD Smith Holding Company; Chris Smith, who served as President and Chief Operating Officer for H. D. Smith Wholesale Drug Co., is now its President and CEO; Bob Appleby, previously Senior Vice President of Category Management, H. D. Smith Wholesale Drug Co., has been named President of H. D. Smith Specialty Solutions, which includes subsidiaries Smith Medical Partners and Triplefin; Joe Conda joins the Office of the Chairman as Executive Vice President to focus on expanding upon the company's mission as an integrated provider of health products, solutions and services, a role that includes acquisitions and alliances. He was previously President of H. D. Smith Specialty Solutions. For more information, visit [www.hdsmith.com](http://www.hdsmith.com).

**Central Illinois realtor organizations announce merger**

Capital Area Realtors (CAR) recently announced a merger with the membership of the West Central Illinois Association of Realtors (WCIAR) as well as both organizations' multiple listing services (MLS). The combined organization, operating under the name Capital Area Realtors will have 600 members and 700 MLS subscribers. The official website will be located at [www.seehouses.com](http://www.seehouses.com). The merger, which the two organizations announced March 19, was approved March

9 and 11 respectively by the members of both groups. The merger received approval from the National Association of and becomes effective April 1, 2015. The new geographical area resulting from the merger will add Warren, Henderson and Knox counties to those counties already in CAR's official jurisdiction, including Sangamon, Menard and the northern portion of Macoupin. In addition to the Capital Area Realtors office in Springfield, the WCIAR office in Galesburg will be maintained and staffed part-time as a CAR satellite office. The two organizations had been discussing possible merger structures and options since late last year.

**Trader celebrates 15 years at Hanson**

Ron Trader, PLS, land surveyor, recently celebrated 15 years of service at Hanson Professional Services Inc's Springfield office. Trader joined the company in 2000. Prior to joining the firm, he was a roadway designer and surveyor for 13 years at MTA Inc. in Springfield. He has provided surveying and design services for multiple projects including bridges, roadways and outdoor advertising sign control efforts across the state for the Illinois Department of Transportation; and for the reconstruction of the Interstate 74 bridge over the Mississippi River from Moline, Illinois, to Bettendorf, Iowa. He earned an associate degree in 1986 from the Morrison Institute of Technology. □



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## JOB FAIR



PHOTOS COURTESY OF GREATER SPRINGFIELD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

# Chamber Job Fair provides opportunities

by Job Conger

As of mid-March about 40 businesses have reserved booth space for the annual Greater Springfield Job and Career Fair slated for Tuesday, April 7, from 3 – 6 p.m. at Crowne Plaza Hotel, 3000 S. Dirksen Parkway. The event is free and open to the public.

The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce director of workforce development Sarah Graham advises all job seekers to bring resumes, transcripts, portfolios, tapes and references to the event. "Dress as though you are coming to your first interview with a company because, in a sense, you are."

Graham said hiring "on the spot" is not as common as it used to be. "It depends on the type of industry. Many companies need to perform background checks and drug testing." If a company is impressed with what comes through during the initial conversation and first look at a portfolio and resume, the applicant will be asked to complete a job application, then arrangements may be made for an interview at the employment site.

"A common misconception is that people do not get hired from job fairs and that companies participate to see who's hiring," Graham said. "Our employers are there because they want to hire employees to fill positions." Her key advice for applicants is to "come prepared. Be over-prepared, ready to answer any question a potential employer might ask."

A collateral benefit for participating employers is the opportunity to see who's attending – perhaps their own employees seeking something better, ready to jump ship.

A guide to the 2015 event, included as an insert in this issue of the *Springfield Business Journal*, has a list of participating employers and articles of value to those "in search of." Participating employers are also listed at the chamber's website. The guide will also be available at the door to all who attend the event. The guide can be a tool for job-seekers to research employers of interest in advance, gather



some foreknowledge of the businesses in question and perhaps strategize ways to harmonize with employers' missions. "Being an informed, prepared communicator is a major plus to bring to the event," Graham said.

While the three-hour event will welcome seekers to a broad spectrum of more than 40 display participants, there is the added opportunity – both for individuals not currently looking as well as employers not currently hiring – to understand the current state of the economic climate in central Illinois.

News shared recently by the Illinois Policy Institute quoted numbers from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The numbers included a modest one-tenth of a percent decrease in unemployment statewide for the month of January 2015. "The state still has 94,600 fewer payroll jobs than when the Great Recession began in January 2008," it said. January 2015's Illinois unemployment rate was 6.1 percent against a national rate of 5.7 percent.

The event's presenting sponsor is Lincoln Land Community College while print and digital media sponsors are *Springfield Business Journal* and *Illinois Times*. Other sponsors include Crowne Plaza Hotel, Express Employment Professionals and Illinois workNet Center. For more information about the event visit [www.gscc.org](http://www.gscc.org) or call Sarah Graham at 217-525-1173. □

Job Conger can be reached at [jconger@eosinc.com](mailto:jconger@eosinc.com).

An advertisement for Marine Bank. At the top left is a green circular logo with three white vertical bars. To the right of the logo is a large, hand-drawn style diagram of a business plan. The diagram includes various icons and text such as "Idea", "Work Hard", "Network", "Market", "Success", "Team", "Possible", "Marketing", "Process", "Strategy", "Today", "Business Plan", "GROW", "Analysis", "Computing", "Help", "50,000,000", and "Growth". A man in a dark suit and tie stands to the right of the diagram, holding a tablet. Below the diagram is the text "We solve problems." and "Financial guidance and solutions you need to enhance productivity, manage cash flow and achieve success". At the bottom left is the Marine Bank logo with "MEMBER FDIC" below it. To the right of the logo is the text "MARINE BANK" and the phone number "726.0660 • [ibankmarine.com](http://ibankmarine.com)".An advertisement for the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce Business Expo. At the top left is the "The Chamber" logo. To the right is the text "MAKE NEW CONNECTIONS" and "At The Chamber's Business Expo!". Below that is the text "NETWORKING ■ EXPOSURE ■ SALES" and "REFERRALS ■ GROWTH ■ CONNECTIONS". In the center is the date "THURSDAY, April 30, 2015" and the location "Prairie Capital Convention Center". Below that is the section "Reasons to Exhibit at Business Connections" with sub-sections "Create a Buzz", "Qualify Viable Leads", "Competition Comparison", "Shorten the Buying Process", and "Distribute Samples or Showcase Your Services". Each sub-section has a brief description and a call to action. At the bottom right is the text "For more information or to exhibit at this year's show, please contact Julia Donohue at 217-525-1173 x216 or e-mail at [jdonohue@gscc.org](mailto:jdonohue@gscc.org) or go on-line at [www.gscc.org](http://www.gscc.org)".



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### SIU Medical School to host wound symposium

An educational seminar on wound care will be held Thursday, April 30, at Memorial's Center for Learning and Innovation. The seminar will focus on wound care and prevention as it relates to the wound patient, with a focus on diabetes from the perspective of a nurse educator, dietitian, vascular surgeon and podiatrist. Topics include peripheral vascular disease, medical and nursing care of diabetic foot problems and the psychological impact of chronic wounds and nutrition therapy as it relates to wound care and prevention. The day-long conference is open to any health care providers interested in wound care. This includes nurses, physicians, dietitians, clinical nurse specialists, nursing home administrators and professionals, home health staff, social workers and licensed professional counselors, occupational therapists and physical therapists. Wound care equipment and product exhibitors will be on site. To register online or for more information, visit [www.siumed.edu/plastics](http://www.siumed.edu/plastics).

### New SCI group offers support during transition to life after loss

"Moving Forward" is a new support group for people who have experienced the recent loss of a loved one. The group will meet from 9 - 10 a.m. on the first and third Fridays of each month at Simmons Cancer Institute (SCI) at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, 315 West Carpenter Street

in Springfield. "This is an opportunity for individuals who have experienced loss to meet and talk with others who are going through similar grief and emotions," said Kristi Lessen, SCI outreach coordinator. Moving Forward is for individuals who have lost a spouse, partner, parent, child or other loved one to cancer. For more information, call Lessen at 217-545-0798.

### Memorial Heart and Vascular Services to sponsor free heart-health event for women

Area women are invited to a free community event featuring fun and interactive breakout sessions to improve their heart health at "Celebrate the Heart of a Woman" from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, April 14, at the Kerasotes branch of the Springfield YMCA. Sponsored by Memorial Heart and Vascular Services, the evening will feature two presentations. The first will be "Shower the Heart of a Woman with Care" led by Dr. Tami Hillis with Springfield Clinic; the second will be "Breaking the Buzz: Are trendy diets all they're cracked up to be?" led by Erin Walker, a registered dietitian with the Memorial Weight Loss & Wellness Center. Several breakout sessions will offer fun and easy ways to exercise and relax. Women will also have the opportunity to register to win door prizes and two grand prize packages. The free event is open to the public, but reservations are recommended. The YMCA's Kerasotes branch is at 4450 W. Iles Ave. Comfortable clothing and shoes are recommended. To

register, visit [MemorialMedical.com](http://MemorialMedical.com) or call Memorial's Healthline at 217-788-3333.

### Prairie Heart Institute first in Illinois with ACE accreditation

The Prairie Heart Institute at HSHS St. John's Hospital recently received the first Accreditation for Cardiovascular Excellence (ACE) in Illinois for its cardiac catheterization lab. ACE is the global leader in external quality review services for all catheter-based cardiovascular procedures. Prairie Heart Institute has two outpatient and eight inpatient catheterization labs where procedures are performed by expert cardiologists and heart care professionals practicing the latest interventional cardiology care that meets or exceeds nationally accepted best practices. "We're proud to be the first hospital in Illinois to receive ACE accreditation," said Gregory Mishkel, MD, executive medical director of Prairie Heart Institute at HSHS St. John's Hospital. "This designation showcases our commitment to elevating heart care in the region."

### Trapp joins Springfield Clinic

Springfield Clinic Rheumatology is adding a well-known physician in the area to their team starting in April. Robert G. Trapp, MD, FACP, has been practicing in Springfield for over 25 years at The Arthritis Center. The merger, effective April 1, 2015, will combine the resources of Dr. Trapp with that of Springfield Clinic Rheumatology. Springfield Clinic's Rheumatology department

currently includes four board-certified doctors - Jason P. Guthrie, MD, Jeffrey R. Horvath, MD, Michael A. Pick, MD, Mark A. Stern, MD and advanced practitioner - Tonya L. Reddy, FNP-BC. Dr. Trapp's new practice will be at Springfield Clinic 1st, 800 1st Street, Springfield, IL 62702. To make an appointment with Dr. Trapp's office at Springfield Clinic, please call 217-528-7541.

### SIU HealthCare opens new OB/GYN clinic

Women seeking general obstetrics and gynecology care will benefit from a new clinic at SIU HealthCare, the clinics of Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in Springfield. The 6,000-square-foot clinic is located at 1100 E. Lincolnshire Rd., Springfield, east of S. Sixth Street in the St. John's Health Center. SIU HealthCare has eight general OB/GYN physicians that offer many services to women of all ages, including general and high-risk obstetrics, general gynecology, menopausal health, evaluation and treatment of abnormal PAP tests, menstrual disorders and minimally invasive surgery. Mammograms and bone density studies will be done on site. Lab and ultrasound will also be available at this location. The physicians also see patients at their existing clinic at St. John's Hospital Carol Jo Vecchie building, 415 N. 9th Street. The clinic is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Easily accessible parking is available. To make an appointment, call 217-545-8000 or visit [siuhealthcare.org](http://siuhealthcare.org). □

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# A primer on tax increment financing

By Thomas C. Pavlik, Jr.

It's election time in Springfield, and we're hearing lots about economic redevelopment. And when people talk about economic redevelopment in Springfield, you'll almost inevitably hear the word "TIF." If you think that a TIF is a lover's spat, this article is for you. And for those readers who know that TIF stands for tax increment financing, this column might still be of some assistance.

What is tax increment financing? TIFs were created over 20 years ago by our state legislature to give local municipalities a better chance at spurring development in certain areas. Generally, TIF funds are used to attract new business to a designated area via government funding of infrastructure improvements (such as roads and sewers) and other direct incentives. Almost all states offer some form of TIF financing.

TIFs are available only for geographical areas that meet certain criteria. Those areas, called TIF districts, usually have certain physical or economic problems. Although perhaps an unfortunate way of describing it, the most common TIF districts are known as "blighted" areas. Blighted areas must meet a certain number of criteria that make them "detrimental" to public safety, health or the welfare of the community or that impair growth. TIF districts can also be created for "conservation" areas that must satisfy different, but somewhat similar, standards.

Before an area can become a TIF district, the local municipality has to answer what seems like a simple question: Will private

investment occur without the incentives provided by TIF financing? If the answer is yes, then TIF financing is unavailable. If the answer is no, TIF financing is available. The process for creating a TIF district, and in the process answering that question, is very similar to how an ordinance is passed. Studies are conducted (known as a Redevelopment Plan), the public and local taxing bodies are invited to provide input, and then the proposal is put to a vote by the municipality. Significantly, the Redevelopment Plan also sets forth the budget for how to allocate the funds available to the TIF district. The whole process is governed by a state law known as the Illinois Tax Increment Allocation Redevelopment Act.

Under that law, TIF funds can be spent on a wide variety of incentives and improvements. Funds can be used to acquire or rehabilitate real property, to provide financing, to fund roads and sewers and other public works, to pay for professional services usually associated with development, to pay for job retraining and even for day care.

Where do the funds come from to pay for all those costs? In short, those funds come from property tax revenues. True to its name, the funds come from something

known as a "tax increment." A tax increment is the difference between property tax revenues before creation of a TIF district and property tax revenue generated after a TIF district is designated. All property taxes that were collected prior to TIF designation continue to be collected and distributed according to law (generally to school districts, park districts and counties) as if the TIF were never created. However, one major assumption of a TIF district is that property values will increase due to new development and the businesses that will be attracted, and that increase in property values will translate into increased property tax revenue. Those property tax revenues resulting from enhanced real estate values are then available for use in the TIF district.

The funds are then made available, upon application to the municipality, to developers and businesses that plan to move to or do business in the TIF district. In Springfield, for instance, funds are directly available, among other things, for lease assistance to businesses who will rent property in the area and for building rehabilitation costs. And again, TIF funds may also be used directly by the municipality to fund infrastructure improvements.

Because it can often take some time for those increased property taxes to materialize, state law allows municipalities to issue bonds. Revenues from the bonds are typically used to pay for "up front" development costs and incentives, with the bonds subsequently paid off with portions of the increased tax revenues. In practice, however, the more recent TIF districts in Springfield have eschewed the issuance of bonds.

By law, TIF districts must expire within 23 years. Upon expiration, all tax revenues, including the increases used to fund the TIF, become available to the taxing body. Also, if no redevelopment occurs within seven years of the creation of the TIF district, the TIF district must terminate by law.

In Springfield, the former Fiat Allis TIF District terminated in 2012, while the Downtown Springfield TIF District is scheduled to terminate at the end of 2016.

Some of the more commonly known TIF districts in Springfield include MacArthur Boulevard, Downtown, Jefferson Crossing and Enos Park. But TIF financing, which is immensely popular, is prevalent throughout the state. One report indicated that 30 percent of downtown Chicago is in a TIF district, while other news organizations have reported that there are in excess of 1,000 TIF districts throughout the state. □

Thomas C. Pavlik, Jr. is an attorney with Delano Law Offices, LLC, in Springfield.



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-  **Foster a culture of public service** throughout City Government so all city departments work together to better serve the citizens.

Paid for by Citizens for Jim Langfelder. A copy of our report filed with the State Board of Elections is (or will be) available on the Board's official website ([www.elections.il.gov](http://www.elections.il.gov)) or for purchase from the State Board of Elections, Springfield, Illinois.

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### RESTAURANT REVIEW



## Lime Street Cafe

By Thomas C. Pavlik, Jr.

It took a lunch meeting, in addition to a client's suggestion that we dine there, to get Lime Street Café on my radar as a lunch venue. It's my own fault – I always think of Lime Street as strictly a dinner destination. Thankfully, my client set me straight.

Lime Street has been in Springfield for as long as I can remember and it hasn't changed since I first visited in 1999. That's a compliment, not an insult. Lime Street is the kind of place that you don't want to change.

My guests and I arrived around 11:30 to find Lime Street pretty empty. An hour later both the dining room and the adjacent bar area (which also seats diners) were at least three-fourths filled. Somewhat surprisingly, our fellow diners trended toward the older end of the spectrum and seemed out for social lunches as opposed to work lunches.

The dining room has lots of dark wood. The walls are covered with a variety of Hollywood memorabilia and there's even a small replica model boat. It's a bit of a throwback to the late 1980s but it all somehow works.

Lime Street doesn't have a separate lunch menu so unless you want to go on the heavy side (steaks, chops, pasta, etc.) you're limited to soups, salads and sandwiches. Don't worry – there's plenty of variety here.

The soup and salad / sandwich combinations (each \$7.25) seemed to be a popular selection the day we visited. In addition to the minestrone (\$3.50 cup,

\$3.99 bowl) and chili (\$3.99/\$4.50) on the menu, Lime Street has a rotating cast of soups of the day (vegetable beef the day we visited – \$4.25 a bowl).

There are plenty of salad options, including the grilled Atlantic salmon salad (\$10.99) and the Caesar pasta salad (large Caesar salad topped with rotini pasta, veggies and Parmesan – \$6.75).

If you are in need of something more substantial than soup or salad, there's the usual array of sandwiches – ranging from the TLT (smoked turkey, Swiss, lettuce and tomato on wheat – \$7.85) to the burger (\$6.75 for a basic half-pounder with specialty toppings \$.50 – \$.99 each) and horseshoe / ponyshoe options (\$8.50/\$7.55). Most sandwiches come with fries.

We decided to try the soup of the day (\$4.25), the patty melt (\$9) and the Cobb salad (\$10).

The soup was generously sized and teeming with vegetables and chunks of rich-looking beef. It had a depth of color that reportedly matched its depth of flavor – this was clearly homemade soup.

The Lime Street kitchen was also quite generous with the size of the Cobb salad (and at \$10 they should have been). The salad itself hit all the right notes. My only complaint was that I sensed the salad may have been assembled well in advance as everything was chilled to the same temperature.

The patty melt was, again, generously sized. The marbled rye looked tasty and the sautéed onions were reported as perfectly



PHOTOS BY MARANDA POTTER



caramelized – just the right combination of sweet and savory. My one guest found it to be cooked a touch past the requested medium temperature, but not enough to make an appreciable difference. The dish came with a healthy amount of steak fries which were reported to taste as if they'd just come out of the fryer.

Our server was on top of things. I found this somewhat remarkable because it seemed she had every table in the main dining room assigned to her. She handled

*Thomas C. Pavlik is an attorney  
in Springfield.*

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Cheryl earned her Juris Doctor at the University of Illinois College of Law and was admitted to practice law in the State of Illinois in 1984. In 2010, she was named a Leading Lawyer in the area of Trust, Will & Estate Planning and earned the distinction of AV Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell, both peer review distinctions.

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**Naomi Lynn**  
Women of Influence 2005

**Amy Segatto Perrin**  
Women of Influence 2010

**Deb Marsaglia**  
Women of Influence 2013

**Carlissa Puckett**  
Women of Influence 2008

**Connie M. Matrisch**  
Women of Influence 2011

**Veronica Robison**  
Women of Influence 2008

**Pam Molitoris**  
Women of Influence 2013

**Diane K. Rutledge, Ph.D.**  
Women of Influence 2006

**Sue Myerscough**  
Women of Influence 2009

**Paula Ryan**  
Women of Influence 2011

Each year in May, Security Bank partners with Springfield Business Journal for a program recognizing local women for their achievements. Women of Influence honors local women for their contributions to the Springfield area community. The recipients are profiled in the May issue of the Business Journal and recognized at a special ceremony and reception.

These women are significant for their valuable contributions in making Springfield a great community. Those who have been selected as Women of Influence have a wide variety of backgrounds, including both the private and public sectors. Many are recognizable names in the community, thanks to their involvement and their commitment to making Springfield a better place to work and live. Security Bank is proud to honor these women for their efforts, and looks forward to recognizing more women who have made a difference.

**Springfield**  
**business journal**

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# These Future CEOs Have CLASS

United Community Bank is a proud supporter of the **Sangamon CEO** program. The Sangamon Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities (CEO) program offers select high school seniors the opportunity to gain **real-world** entrepreneurial experience, with an accredited **high school** course, and be paired with a mentor from the local business community. These dedicated students attend 90-minute classes before school each day, learn to create and present business plans, and even **start their own individual and class business**.

To learn more or get involved in the program, visit [sangamonceo.com](http://sangamonceo.com) or contact Brant Mackey at [mackey@sangamonceo.com](mailto:mackey@sangamonceo.com) or by phone at 217-836-3300.



**SANGAMON**CEO

CREATING ENTREPRENEURIAL  
OPPORTUNITIES

Join us for our upcoming events:  
April 30th – Business Connections  
May 8th – Leadercast

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**UCB Marine:** Augusta Carthage Hamilton | **UCB BCSB:** Golden Mt. Sterling



PHOTO BY DAVID HINE

## Making the capital city attractive

By Scott Faingold, associate editor

This issue of the *Business Journal* goes to press between two elections, both of which are bound to have far-reaching effects on the city of Springfield in general and the business community here specifically. Change is certainly in the air.

The recent defeat of Pat Quinn by Bruce Rauner, along with the third-place showing by Springfield Mayor Mike Houston in the recent primary, combine to indicate a state and a city unsatisfied with the political status quo. I had the pleasure of discussing local business concerns with mayoral candidates Jim Langfelder and Paul Palazzolo (see p. 3). Two very distinct visions emerged, with both candidates emphasizing

the importance of making the city an attractive place for businesses and young people to put down roots.

I believe that a big part of reaching this admirable goal lies in emphasizing our city's educational assets. Certainly the Sangamon CEO program offers a unique, hands-on opportunity to high school business students (described in detail by participants on p. 23), and in its way is doing its part to get young entrepreneurs excited about their own futures while exploring the potential of Springfield's business landscape. Meanwhile, on the other end of the age spectrum, Benedictine's \$10K MBA program allows a timely, affordable and – perhaps most

importantly – local method for those already in the city's workforce to expand their options and marketability.

Elsewhere in this month's special section on education, we learn about expanded options for nursing students in town as well as a variety of ambitious plans in the works at UIS. Certainly one of Springfield's greatest strengths is in its many educational institutions, from SIU School of Medicine to Robert Morris University. Hopefully, whichever candidate finds himself in the mayor's office in a few weeks will find ways to work with all of these schools to continue making Springfield more attractive to young people and entrepreneurs of all stripes. □



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## Why Springfield needs a city planner

**SDAT Action Committee announces support of new position**

The Sustainable Design Assessment Team (SDAT) Action Committee is writing in support of creating a city government position of city/urban planner. We see the lack of this position as a significant barrier to smart development and growth.

Most cities the size of Springfield have city planning departments. Springfield does not have a single person on staff dedicated to strategizing about these issues, across departments, on a continual basis. A dedicated city/urban planner would also prioritize and coordinate the work the city asks the Springfield/Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission to undertake.

Surrounding cities with planners and updated comprehensive plans are growing much faster than Springfield. Springfield's plan is from 2001, with three amendments, and is not even reflective of the need to encourage residential development downtown.

According to USA.com website (survey data 2008-2012), Springfield has a less than 5 percent growth rate. The smallest growth rate in the surrounding towns is 13 percent (considering towns over 3,000 people). Bloomington and Champaign are over 18 percent. An SJ-R article in May 2014

highlighted the same point. If Springfield is to remain vital, a living comprehensive plan with the staff resources to maintain its relevance and the associated database of opportunities is critical. Imagine... if Springfield had had population growth of 20 percent over the last 10 years... how much tax revenue, job growth and civic pride would have been generated.

A city planner allows someone with education, training and expertise to evaluate the needs of the whole community and advise the administration on policies to encourage growth patterns that enhance the whole city. A city/urban planner would look at issues like:

- Overall development – where does opportunity coincide with city needs, where should the city focus efforts on retention or redevelopment, how to encourage development in the inner city areas, city policy on greenfield developments versus existing property redevelopment, etc.
- Zoning/building codes – form-based zoning for established older neighborhoods
- Encouraging development in the existing city limits using existing infrastructure
- Establish a plan for infrastructure

improvements based on condition and locations where development is being encouraged, rather than as things break.

- Review public transportation needs
- Parking policies – especially downtown.
- Identifying sites (such as Fourth and Jackson) where the city can play a role in supporting development.
- Coordinate efforts with development, infrastructure, tourism, enterprise and look at incentive programs. Coordinate development with the Springfield/Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission.
- Generating public-private partnerships for development and developing programs to encourage private investment in the city.

The American Institute of Architects selected Springfield for an SDAT study partially because the capital city has a lot of untapped potential. We need a city/urban planner to help unleash that potential by looking to the future and developing strategies to help Springfield thrive as that future unfolds. □

*The Sustainable Design Assessment Team Action Committee*