

FEBRUARY 2016

# Springfield business journal

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## A force awakens in Lincoln

By Catherine O'Connor  
Story on page 20



The opening of the newly expanded Lincoln Grand 8 theater, a modern "first run" cinema and what will soon be an adjoining restaurant in the old Sandel's corner service station, coincided with the premiere of the newly released Star Wars film.

PHOTO BY STACIE LEWIS

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# Meet Dennis Minick

*Business manager, International Union of Operating Engineers Local 965*

By Eric Woods

As a child, Dennis Minick used to admire heavy machinery and knew someday he would be a heavy equipment operator. "I would see those big pieces of equipment when we were driving down the road and thought it looked fun," he said. After graduating from Lincoln Community High School in 1974, Minick actually got to live out this dream when he spent four years in the Air Force as an equipment operator.

Upon returning from the Air Force, Minick worked as a laborer before getting an apprenticeship through the International Union of Operating Engineers. According to Minick, anyone who wants to become an apprentice must go through 6,000 hours of on-the-job training and complete 10 classes while working as an apprentice. "It usually takes anywhere from four to six years to get through the program," he said.

Minick has been very active with Local 965 ever since. "I have had just about every

job," he said. He has served as a journeyman, been in the field as an operator and also acted as an instructor at the training site in 2004. "I was an organizer, then a field representative, a dispatcher and have been on the executive board. When Mike Zahn retired last July, I became the business manager." His new duties involve negotiating contracts, overseeing the day-to-day operations of the Local 965, and directing the business representatives and their duties.

Minick is ardent about his members learning the craft and would like to see all members utilize the training offered by the union. "Training to our members is free through our training site," he said. "You can get everything from CPR and first aid training to becoming a certified

crane operator. The more versatile you are on equipment, the more employment opportunities you will have."

Although he grew up in Lincoln, Minick has lived in Atlanta, Illinois, for the past 20 years.

He is married to Carmen and has two children as well as four grandchildren, and his hobbies include landscaping. In fact, he owned a landscaping business in Lincoln for five years. He also has various projects going on around his house. "I just put in a water garden and coy pond," he said. There are also plans for a potting shed and greenhouse for his wife. "She gives me a lot of projects," he said. Minick is

*"A proper work ethic opens a lot of doors for you."*

also a big fan of the Fighting Illini basketball team. He started following them in the early part of the millennium when fellow Lincoln Community High School graduate Brian Cook

was on the team.

Minick has come a long way since working his first job as a paper boy. He is quite proud to have spent so many years with Local 965 and his goal going forward is to maintain the standards of the International Union of Operating Engineers. "A proper work ethic opens a lot of doors for you," he said. Minick does have a retirement plan and wants to travel, fish and just enjoy life. His daughter is currently on a mission in Africa where she will be for the next several years, so Minick may be going there once he decides to call it quits.

"When I retire, I want to be that guy in sandals, knee high socks and plaid shorts, just laughing at people," he said jokingly. "Maybe I will just dress up like that one time and see what happens." □

*Eric Woods is a freelance writer from Springfield. He can be reached at [ericw93@aol.com](mailto:ericw93@aol.com).*

# The business of caring

## Disaster headquarters in Springfield manages Red Cross flood response

By Catherine O'Connor

Many people know that the Red Cross works with partners such as local, state and federal agencies to supply meals and shelter to those affected by emergencies, catastrophic disasters and even small house fires. But those of us who have been occasional volunteers may not know how the massive job of coordinating and managing disaster operations takes place.

Beginning in late December, during the latest round of flooding in the region, the American Red Cross opened a disaster response operations headquarters in Springfield to coordinate a strategic response to the unfolding situation. The Red Cross works with first responders and government officials to ensure displaced people and other victims receive the help they need.

The headquarters is located on the second floor of the American Red Cross Serving South Central Illinois (ARCSSCI) office located at 1045 Outer Park Dr. Information technology experts set up equipment and computers to keep this center in constant communication with disaster monitors in key locations throughout the affected area, as well as local, regional, state and federal organizations.

After rivers rose during unprecedented rainfall in late December, fields and streams and eventually roads, businesses and homes began to flood. Throughout the region, more than 100 Red Cross workers arrived to staff numerous shelters and warming centers, where emergency response vehicles delivered

relief supplies and food. To compound matters, a massive power outage affecting thousands of households hit during the holiday weekend, resulting in nine deaths in central and southern Illinois, along with the need for mass care shelters and supplies to provide help until power was restored.

On the ground in locations from Woodford to Clinton counties and from Scott to Vermillion counties, Red Cross caseworkers came to the aid of affected families and those who were evacuated, helping in the form of emergency housing, food, necessities and cleanup supplies.

Behind the front lines, teams of Red Cross case managers – ranging from trained health care professionals to communications and supply specialists – carried out the hands-on work of assessing client needs and ensuring resources are used efficiently in the region, which shares territory along the Illinois-Missouri state lines. In just the first three weeks of the response to the power outage and flooding, nearly 40,000 meals and snacks were served, 142 vehicle trips were taken, more than 4,500 cleanup kits and more than 14,000 bulk items (including rakes, shovels, sanitizer, brooms, mops and other items that become vital necessities) were distributed to those affected.

Logistical organization of volunteers, case workers and staff, mass care and bulk distribution of food and supplies is based on hour-by-hour estimates from managers in

the field communicating with headquarters about how many and what they need. Meanwhile, staff in Springfield recruit volunteers from the closest regions and then open their search to other regions, depending on the need for those with specific skills and training, like medical and mental health specialties.

Donations are the monetary engine to fund all of this work. “We are so grateful to the public, along with our partners like local first responders and government officials and the media, who get the story out to help us reach the public. Often it takes being personally affected by a disaster for those in the community to see firsthand the need for donations and volunteers,” said Bryan Soady, ARCSSCI executive director.

Major gift officer Catie Franks has been pleased with the response from the community. Financial support has included significant recent donations from Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Illinois; AT&T Foundation; Papa John’s Pizza, which has pledged to donate a portion of their sales for an entire year; and SIU School of Medicine, which is giving the proceeds of an upcoming casual day fundraiser to help support regional Red Cross disaster relief; all in addition to contributions from numerous other organizations, businesses and individuals.

The annual Red Cross Heroes of the Heartland dinner is a way to honor those in the community who have served in outstanding ways. The event will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield in July. The Red Cross is currently seeking both sponsors and nominations for this event and would love to have the support of the local business community, according to Franks.

Even as flood waters recede, the ARCSSCI

continues to raise awareness and funds to help serve our communities as they transition from response to recovery mode. In areas throughout the region a Multi-Agency Resource Center, which is a joint effort between the Red Cross and numerous community partners, provides a “one-stop shop” to help residents access disaster recovery resources, which can link to replacement housing and other community resources.

Studies have shown that roughly 50 percent of businesses never recover after experiencing a major disaster; according to Valerie Goodwin, Red Cross disaster program specialist. Vital steps in developing a preparedness program include management, planning, implementation, testing and evaluation. Disasters can include natural hazards such as floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes or widespread serious illness, human-caused hazards, accidents, acts of violence or terrorism, as well as technology-related hazards or malfunction of systems, equipment or software. Businesses which need to create, improve or update a plan to maintain normal operations and provide resilience during a disruption, can develop a disaster plan at [www.readyrating.org](http://www.readyrating.org).

It can be easy for people to forget about the Red Cross after a disaster, during what is known as the “blue sky” period. However, significant ongoing humanitarian work is always being done internationally as part of the worldwide mission, including emergency communications, training and support for military families and veterans. Whether at home or abroad, the Red Cross is always ready to respond to a wide variety of needs. □

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The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. For more information, please visit [redcross.org](http://redcross.org) or on Twitter at @RedCross. A donations quick link can be found at [redcross.org/donate](http://redcross.org/donate).



Emergency response vehicles staffed by Red Cross volunteers and personnel are strategically stationed to be quickly deployed during a mission like the recent flooding in the 14-county region.

PHOTO COURTESY OF AMERICAN RED CROSS

# Selling a comfortable piece of hospitality

By Eric Woods

For the majority of her life, Phyllis DeRosear has lived in the central Illinois area. She enjoys that the capital city is not too big and that she has been able to get to know the people. "I always see familiar faces when I go to local events. That does not happen in larger cities," she said. "When you make friends here, you remain friends. We all tend to stay here forever."

The political landscape is one area with which DeRosear is displeased as it relates to Springfield and the state of Illinois as a whole. "The budget issues affect us locally more than people think because we are the state capital. It affects local businesses," she said.

DeRosear has worked in the hospitality industry for a total of eight years, a shift from what she imagined she would be growing up. As a young girl she wanted to be a nurse. By high school her career plans had shifted to accounting, since she always enjoyed math classes, but eventually found that to be way too boring.

She has been with Comfort Inn and Suites since March 2015 overseeing management of the hotel including sales, revenue management and human resources. The hotel was formerly a Super 8 but has been completely renovated in the past year. DeRosear admitted that 2015 was a flat year for occupancy but 2016 is looking to be a

better market with much stronger demand.

The challenges of working at a hotel in her current capacity center heavily around staffing, which DeRosear learned is common with most hotels. "This is my first operations position, and the turnover is taxing," she said. "It is a constant revolving door." As a new operations manager, she has looked to the more seasoned managers for guidance and they agree that heavy turnover is just the nature of the business. An assistant general manager is coming on board soon which will give DeRosear an opportunity to delegate some of the operational responsibilities so she can focus on the sales side.

DeRosear advises those looking to get into hotel management to be prepared to dedicate a good amount of time to work. "You have to be passionate about it because it is a 24 hours a day, seven days a week responsibility," she said. Those who want to be successful must also go out and network in order to meet new people, even if that means stepping out of their comfort zone. "Hospitality is all about personality and building relationships. I have a lot of repeat guests due to the relationships we developed and even have customers who followed me from my last hotel over here."

Proper management of staff is also a key component to success, according to DeRosear. She feels that managers should

manage everyone a little differently. "Learn how each one responds in order to help them grow and develop," she said. "Some need more guidance while others just want to be told what to do. We have a diverse group of people here. Some need more attention than others."

A major influence for DeRosear was her step-grandfather, who owned his own restaurant for more than two decades. "He was a strong businessman who always got things accomplished," she said. His work ethic resonated with DeRosear over the years. Prior to her hotel career, she was working three jobs. "When a door opened up in hospitality, I jumped right in. The last five years have been mostly a rebuilding time in my life. It is rewarding to have done it on my own."

DeRosear hopes to stay in the hospitality field in the future but eventually become more of a "task force" type of manager. "I want to go to places in distress and help them get back on their feet," she said. "I would oversee multiple properties. It would be nice to travel and see how other hotels are run." As far as retiring, when the time comes she would love to do more traveling and see as much of the world as she can. □

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



PHOTO BY MARANDA POTTERF

## Phyllis DeRosear

**Title:** General Manager/Director of Sales, Comfort Inn and Suites  
**Education:** Certified Hospitality Sales Professional (CHSP®) through the American Hotel and Lodging Association  
**Family:** Children - Tyler, Devan, and Logan

### Favorites -

**Hobby:** Exercise  
**Restaurant:** The Market Grille  
**Sports team:** Chicago Bears

### Tidbits -

Enjoys reading leadership books  
 Wants to travel to Italy  
 Loves action movies



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Ram Talluri

PHOTO BY JOB CONGER

# A franchise with its ups and downs

by Job Conger

Ram Talluri is CEO and managing director of Lead IT Corporation, an international company which has recently announced plans to open two Sky Zone franchises. Sky Zone is a California firm which has patented “the first all-trampoline walled playing court” concept and currently operates 170 such courts, including two already in Illinois (Aurora and Elmhurst). Talluri plans to open one on Springfield’s far west side, at 3454 Liberty Dr., in the second week of April. If all goes as planned, a smaller Bloomington Sky Zone will also be open before the end of 2016. The trampoline courts are the latest international entrepreneurial machinations of a software engineer who emigrated from Hyderabad, India, to Springfield in 2001.

Hyderabad, population 6.8 million, is the fourth-largest city in India. Talluri recently recalled how professional success was never a concern for him but his future was. “I was a state government employee in India,” he said. “I wanted to become a businessman and I had a lot of dreams. I came here alone with all my dreams and \$115 in my pocket.” Soon after, he began contracting jobs with the state of Illinois at \$20 per hour and worked as a contractor with several state agencies. “I realized I had (significant skills) that could be marketed.” He also realized during that time “that I do not like to work; I wanted to become an entrepreneur.”

He took the first step by launching an IT staffing company. “I rented an office in Fairhills Mall for \$200 a month with a table, a computer and a phone.” The business grew, initially with successful bids for state contracts, then with private industry, eventually servicing General Electric and Enterprise Rent-A-Car. “Enterprise is my

biggest client,” he said. “We have more than 40 employees working there.”

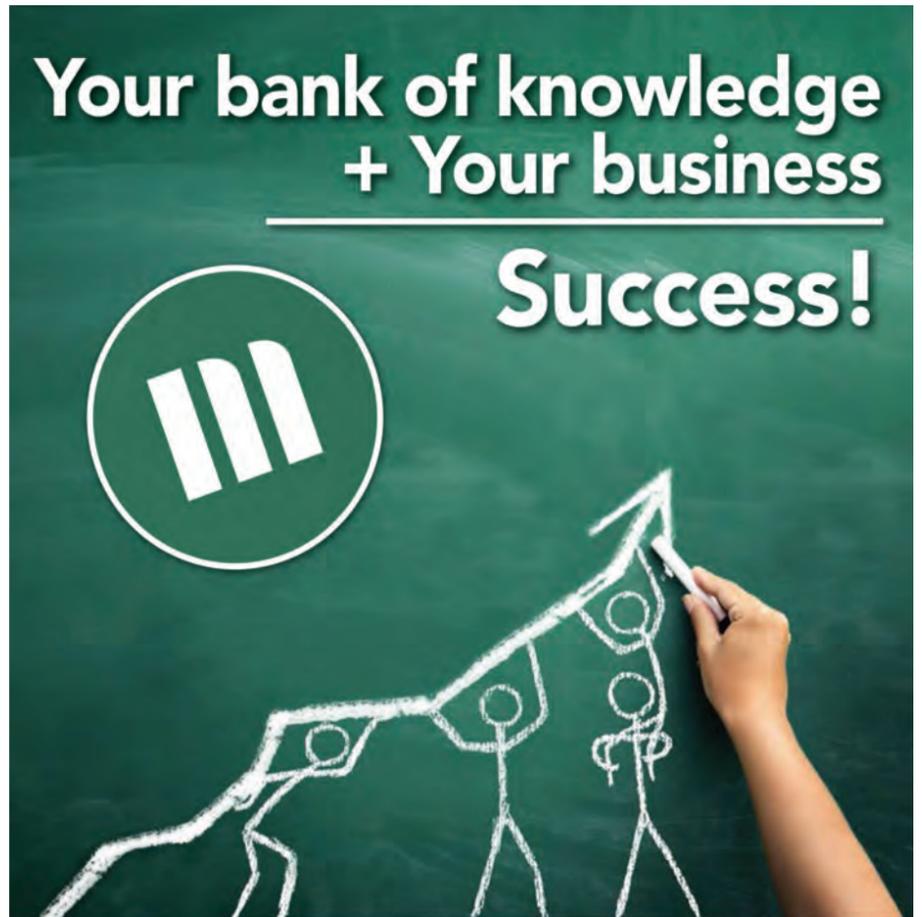
Today, Lead IT employs 600 people, including 200 in Hyderabad along with offices in Chicago; Albany, New York; and Vancouver, Canada. Talluri also owns Ram Innovations LLC (real estate), Hut7, Charger hotels, SRT Movie House (film production) and the new Ram Entertainment – which he launched in connection with his plans for his two Illinois Sky Zones – and more. Gross billing for all his companies in 2015 was \$100 million.

Talluri oversees all of his successes from his headquarters in suite 210 at 1999 Wabash Ave. while maintaining a major presence in Hyderabad. The Springfield office employs eight, not including the CEO. Surprisingly, perhaps, when asked if he travels the intercontinental distances with a business jet such as a Grumman Gulfstream or Bombardier Global Express, he replied that he owns no business aircraft. “I prefer to travel on commercial airlines because I do not like a lot of luxury in my life. I prefer to fly like most of the people I know.”

How did an IT specialist connect to a trampoline franchise? “There are not many things here in Springfield for kids to do,” he says. “My kids, when there is no school, they ask me to take them to St. Louis or Chicago. I hear the same thing from a lot of families.”

Talluri expects to employ 60 at the Springfield Sky Zone and 50 in Bloomington. His plan is to hire mostly kids who are attending college in order help further their education. “In my heart, I wanted to give something back to Springfield because it has given so much to me,” he said. □

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



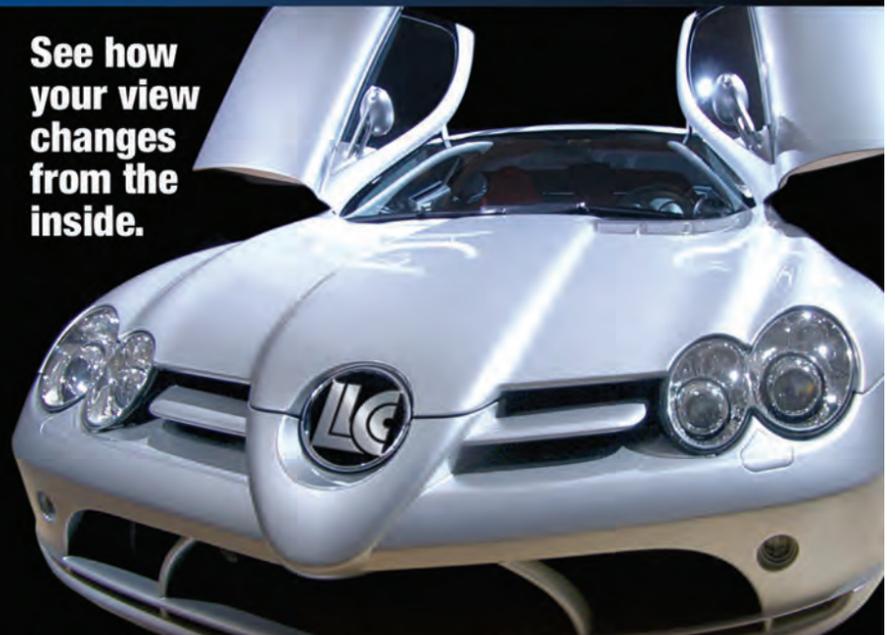
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 **Lincoln Land Community College**



On January 13, *Springfield Business Journal* and United Community Bank honored this year's Best Places to Work selectees. A reception and awards ceremony were held at the United Community Bank branch on Montvale. Attendees enjoyed a cocktail reception and networking with other business owners prior to the ceremony. Henson Robinson, Horace Mann, and St. Joseph's Home were recognized as the 2016 Best Places to Work. Mayor Jim Langfelder presented awards to representatives from each company, who were also joined on stage by a cross-section of their employees. To learn more about this annual program or make a nomination, visit [www.springfieldbusinessjournal.com](http://www.springfieldbusinessjournal.com).



Guests enjoyed appetizers and desserts from Celebrations Catering by County Market.

PHOTO BY KYLE JENNINGS



Steve Otten and Jerry Barkmeier.

PHOTOS BY GINNY LEE UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED



David Drennan, Emily Maxey and Brian Reardon.



St. Joseph's Home was represented by Sister Holly Marie Schultz, Sister Mary Dries, Sister Marion Lemon, Sister Patricia Masterson, Sister Rose Madonna Gillman and Sister Lenore Highland.



Alex Irland, Mayor Jim Langfelder and Tina Prose.

PHOTO BY KYLE JENNINGS



Mark Patrick, Steve Etheridge, Jeannie Underfanger, Brian Vogt and Jody Alderman of Henson Robinson.



Rick Grenzebach, Diane Rutledge and Bob Narmont.



Pamela Frazier and Jean Winn.



Mayor Jim Langfelder presents the Best Places to Work award to Dwayne Hallman of Horace Mann.



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## RETAIL



Stuffed Safari has an inventory of more than 28,000 big and small stuffed animals ready to ship.

PHOTO BY GINNY LEE

# Not your standard menagerie

By Haley Wilson

As the city of Springfield continues to boom with family-owned businesses and local establishments, "shop local" has become a popular slogan. Shopping local encourages central Illinois residents to invest in their local businesses. However, many local consumers are not aware that one of the largest stuffed animal retailers in the country is located right here in our hometown. Stuffed Safari is a local online plush toy retailer which is the largest company of its kind in the United States. Owners Troy and Shannon Powell have flown under the radar as a successful local establishment...until now.

Originally residents of Peoria, Shannon and Troy have always been entrepreneurs at heart. Before the novelty toy business, the Powells established careers in asset liquidation. The couple thrived there until the company's owner decided to retire and shut down operations. Around the same time, the Powells also discovered they were expecting their daughter Rachel.

Anxious to start fresh with their newly expanded family, Troy and Shannon moved to the college town of Gainesville, Florida. Shortly after their move, Troy and Shannon began to notice their daughter develop a special interest. "I love animals and animal toys, especially stuffed animals. I think that stuffed animals are the best toy in the world," Rachel says. As she got older, Rachel began to notice that many companies only sold standard stuffed animal such as cats, dogs and teddy bears whereas she was increasingly interested in the more unique and rare species of stuffed animals. Where were the stuffed red pandas, ring-tailed lemurs, great Danes and Canadian geese?

Just as they were establishing new careers in Florida, a family illness prompted the Powells to move back to Illinois. "Florida is nice," Troy states, "but when someone is sick, it makes you realize how important having your family close to you is." The Powells packed their bags and relocated to Springfield.

Soon after the family had settled back in their home state, Shannon decided to turn her daughter's stuffed animal hobby into a business. She realized that it was quite difficult to find nonstandard stuffed animals in the retail stores. The family decided to take the risk and start a retail stuffed animal business from their home, purchasing animals from wholesalers. They quickly began to see profits and soon invested in office space.

With the continuous growth and popularity of the company nationwide, one might picture Stuffed Safari as a large-scale warehouse with a busy call center of several employees. To the contrary, Stuffed Safari operates with a total of six employees (including the Powells) in an unassuming warehouse on the southeast side of Springfield. The company does not even have a sign to advertise their business.

Although Stuffed Safari is enjoying great success, Troy and Shannon have remained very humble and low key. The couple has a very hands-on approach to running their business. They come in every day and work the same hours as their employees.

It is common to find them packaging and shipping orders with the warehouse staff or pressing personalized items for custom orders.

When it comes to shopping local, the choices at Stuffed Safari are practically endless, with animals sourced from companies such as Save Our Space (S.O.S), Aurora, and Hansa. From handcrafted baby emus and tiny kiwi birds to life-size 60-inch standing grizzly bears, there are few animals you can't find. Stuffed Safari also does not limit itself solely to stuffed animals. The company also offers puppets, school mascots, play sets and personalized options for their products. For more information, visit [www.stuffedssafari.com](http://www.stuffedssafari.com). □



Handcrafted 8 inch lifelike kiwi stuffed animal by Hansa. PHOTO COURTESY OF STUFFEDSAFARI.COM

*Haley Wilson is a local writer and marketing professional with a bachelor's degree in Communication Arts.*

# Capturing the moment

By Eric Woods

Although she was born in Nebraska, Kate Spencer's family moved to Chatham when she was only eight months old. At 18 she moved to Nashville, Tennessee, where she spent the next four years until she moved back to the central Illinois area in 2013. She loves the small-town feel of Springfield even though it is still a larger city. The cold weather, however, has her thinking of warmer places. "I would move somewhere with a beach any day if I found a job there," she said. One local issue that bothers Spencer is the lack of support shown to local businesses, especially lately. "We have a pretty bad way of showing how much we appreciate them."

At a young age, Spencer had thought about becoming a doctor but later realized she could not do all the schooling. She became interested in photography at age 12 and was the editor of her high school's yearbook, even winning an award in photojournalism. Her first job was in high school where she worked in the child care area at Fit Club West. During her time in Nashville she was able to intern for a photographer which gave her some great experience in the industry. "I learned early on to be as organized as possible and to always love what you do so

you never have to work a day in your life," said Spencer.

Spencer has had her own photography business for three years, where she specializes in a variety of themes. "I usually do weddings, newborns, boudoir and families," she said. Her key subject is wedding photography, which supports the business. She also loves to travel and so is happy to book destination weddings. "It is a fun business to be in because I get to meet a lot of great people and it is always on the happiest day of their lives. So, that makes it easier." When clients contact her, Spencer will set up an initial meeting to go over their ideas and what they are looking for in a photographer. She will meet three or four times with each client prior to the big day to go over details and come up with ideas.

The job of a professional photographer can be difficult at times, according to Spencer, as she becomes very invested emotionally with the clients. "There have been some tough situations because I care so much about it," she said. "So much time and emotion is invested in a wedding day. That makes it fun but challenging."

Two of the most important factors people interested in becoming professional photographers must focus on are education

and an understanding of the business. "It is 80 percent business and 20 percent photography," said Spencer. "This job is not something you can pick up by just buying a camera." The business and client aspects of photography were some of the best pieces of advice Spencer received.

Spencer is currently working toward an improved web presence while getting ready for her busiest time of the year. "I have a blog and want to get that going better," she said. Wedding season is also coming up in a couple months, and Spencer is already booked through the summer for weddings. "Right now, I only have winter spots available."

As Spencer looks ahead, she envisions owning a boutique photo studio and having a family of her own. "I want to work on building my business around my life, so if I have a family I will be able to have time for them," she said. Spencer learned about hard work from her mom early in her life. "She has always been a hard-working person. She always taught us to stay determined no matter what life throws at you." □

Connect with Eric Woods  
at [ericw93@aol.com](mailto:ericw93@aol.com).



PHOTO BY MARANDA POTTERF

## Kate Spencer

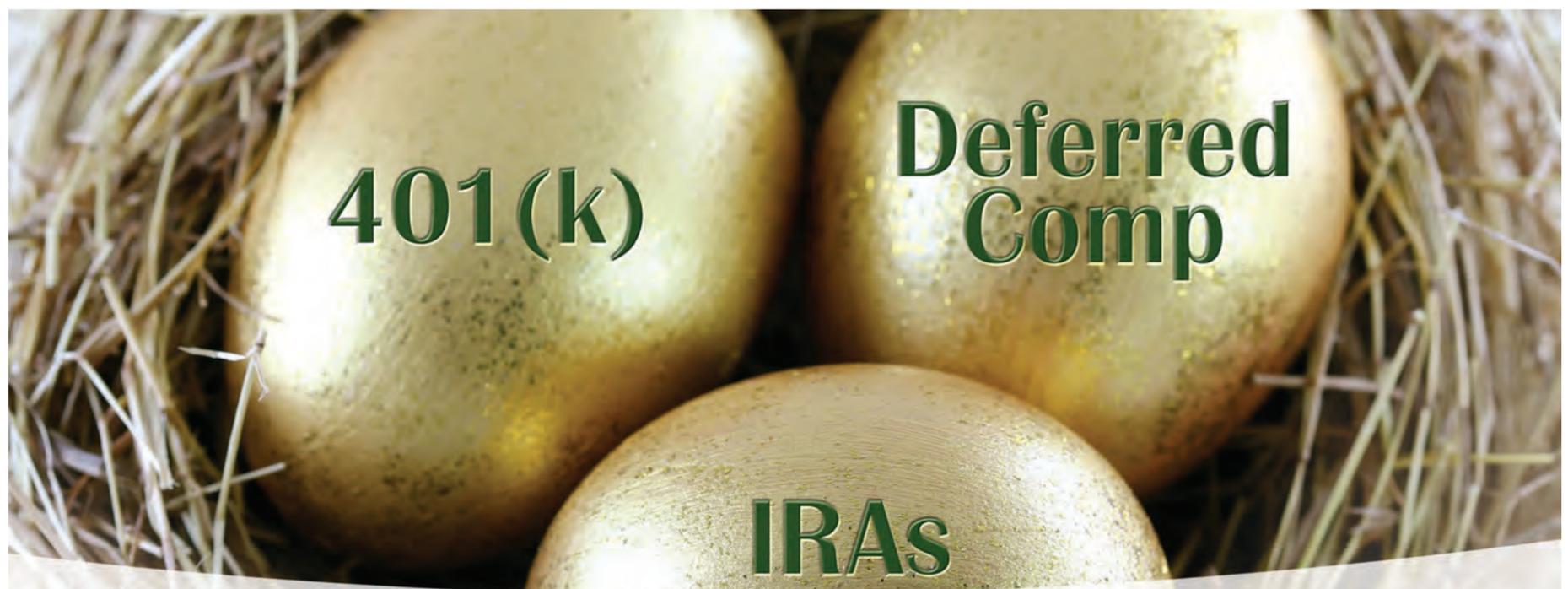
Title: Owner and Photographer, Kate Spencer Photography  
Education: Associates in digital communication photography from Nossi College of Art

### Favorites -

Hobby: Playing with her niece  
Author: Jodi Picoult  
Restaurant: PF Chang's

### Tidbits -

Wants to learn how to play the guitar  
Member of Business Network International (BNI)  
Photographer for *Springfield's Own Magazine*.



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# Barber college a labor of love

By Colin Patrick Brady



Brandon Lockhart of Lockhart's Barber College in Decatur.

PHOTO BY COLIN PATRICK BRADY

determined to beat the odds and make something of himself. "I consider myself a changed man," he says, admitting that he was forced to learn several of life's lessons the hard way. "I wanted to smash the reputation that can remain attached to a young troublemaker." He considers his discipline as a barber and instructor evidence of success.

Lockhart also takes pride in styling himself personally along with his branding, a value he says is reflected in all aspects of his work. "Everything from the color scheme to the music to the barbers' attire" meets his exacting standard, along with an emphasis on quality haircuts and customer service at affordable prices (all haircuts at the college cost a flat \$7). Posters with an old-world feel festoon the walls, displaying black and white photos of hairstyles with names like "traditional hard part," "slicked back" and "the undercut."

Senior men tend to make up the greatest portion of clientele in any given week, according to Lockhart. "When the younger crowd is at school or work we serve a population of seniors who appreciate the extra bit of professionalism and pampering that we provide," he says. "I would call senior men the foundation of our business and those who most fill up our days."

In terms of new barbers receiving certification, Lockhart says that the state requires 1,500 hours logged at a state licensed barber college. Most students do not attend Lockhart's for more than 12 months, with 20 students a year graduating. Currently the college has 11 stations from which prospective barbers work and learn. "The relatively small number of students was well thought out," says Lockhart. "We did not want to saturate the local market." He also believes that with a smaller pool of enrollees, better quality control can be maintained. "It is easier to keep a cautious eye on 11 students versus 20-plus." So far only two students have been terminated for what Lockhart terms unprofessional behavior while on the job.

He describes Lockhart's as a "traditional barber college" – that is, one that focuses primarily upon men's hairstyles. Women are not excluded from receiving haircuts, though it is preferred that they stick to a shorter, cropped style.

Proud of his central Illinois roots, Lockhart continues to expand his barbering empire throughout the area. In addition to the barber college and the initial Decatur shop, the young entrepreneur opened a barber shop in Mt. Zion in June of last year and has plans to open another location in Shelbyville in March.

For more information and to take a virtual tour of Lockhart's Barber College, visit [LockhartsBarberShop.com](http://LockhartsBarberShop.com). □

Central Illinois residents may soon notice an influx of highly pedigreed barbers, thanks to the efforts of a skilled entrepreneur and his recently opened, already renowned training facility. Lockhart's Barber College is the brainchild of Brandon Lockhart, formerly of Shelbyville. Barbering has been in Lockhart's blood for some time, having opened his first shop in downtown Decatur in 2012 and serving as its sole barber for 10 months. "I was too busy on my own for nearly a year," Lockhart, 28, says. He eventually remodeled the location and brought two more barbers on staff. The trio manned the shop through September 2014 when Lockhart branched off to start his barber college.

In order to become an accredited barber college, Lockhart explains, one is required to conform to what he calls "a plethora of state regulations, such as a set amount of square footage. You must meet certain health standards, and you must have the actual commercial building picked out ahead of time with the lease signed before they will even consider your application." Lockhart adds that "you must be a licensed barber teacher in order to be the director of the school."

The college has begun to attract a diverse base of students hailing from all over central Illinois and employs four instructors, including Springfield native George Burrell. "Graduates can perform barbering work using their diploma until state testing is completed," says Lockhart.

For his own training, Lockhart attended the Illinois Quad Cities Barber and Hairstyling College in Moline. "I attended a nine-month barber program and a nine-month instructor program. I was teaching three days and cutting hair two days a week."

Lockhart grew up in a poor, hardscrabble environment but was

Colin Patrick Brady is a freelance writer from Decatur.

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**Association for Women in Communications (AWC)**  
 AWC will meet on Wednesday, February 10th from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Sangamo Club. Jeff Thompson, who handles information security in the Bureau of Communication and Computer Services for the Illinois Department of Central Management Services, will be the guest speaker. Join us for a fascinating glimpse into the world of cyber security and get some tips on how to keep yourself and your workplace safer. Make reservations and pay online at [www.awcspringfield.com](http://www.awcspringfield.com).

**Women Entrepreneurs of Central Illinois (WE-CI)**  
 WE-CI will meet on Wednesday, February 10th from 11:30-1 p.m. at the Sangamo Club. The program will be presented by Laura Kresse, Director of Operations for Sojourn Shelter & Services. She will be sharing more information about their mission, impact on the community, and what we can do to help. For additional information, contact Sara Lieber at [seniorsidekicks@gmail.com](mailto:seniorsidekicks@gmail.com). The cost for the meeting is \$15 for members, \$10 for guests, and \$20 for walk-ins. Make reservations at [www.we-ci.org](http://www.we-ci.org).

**Illinois Women in Leadership (IWIL)**  
 IWIL will meet on Thursday, February 18 from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Sangamo Club. BlessedbyBrenna.com blog and author, Courtney Westlake, will be sharing the story of her journey. Reservations are available at [www.iwil.biz](http://www.iwil.biz).

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# More than just a cookbook

By Mark Thoma

*Freddy, Fork it Over* is much more than a cookbook aimed at the pre-teen crowd and their parents. It's a cleverly laid out, colorfully illustrated, 40-recipe guide to healthy meal-making with a good dose of fun facts and tips on staying fit, all wrapped up to look like that favorite school notebook you were lost without.

The 10-year labor of love by local authors Farah Eck and Brandy Grove follows Freddy the Fork and the rest of the Silverton family through their adventures learning about nutrition, cooking, exercise and fitness.

Eck says there are already enough ways to trick kids into eating healthy, and she and Grove wanted to make a book that would provide parents with options to engage them in the kitchen and beyond.

Like workbooks at school, *Freddy, Fork it Over* is designed to be a personalized, marked up work in progress, proudly shown to visiting relatives skeptical of who cooked the masterpiece they just finished eating. Grove says she and Eck welcome recipe feedback from those younger chefs and their parents on their Facebook page and website.

But unappreciative taste buds might be hard to find; the authors submitted all 40 recipes to various families and panels of individuals at least three times before settling on the final combination of



Authors Farah Eck and Brandy Grove

PHOTOS BY MARK THOMA

ingredients and instructions that made it into the book.

Each of the recipes is clearly marked with the appropriate age level for mother's (or father's) little helper attempting it, and a computer printout shows the important nutritional content from one serving. Each recipe page also includes a professional photo, a list of ingredients, and a "taped" card with a list of instructions. In the back there's even a visual guide to some of the various kitchen tools used in preparing food.

The book has recipes for breakfast, lunch and dinner, not to mention how to make goodies for parties and snacks.

Grove calls *Freddy, Fork it Over* a healthy living guide more than a cookbook. She says the cookbook is an ideal way to engage kids on a whole group of topics including food choices, where those foods come from, and growing your own food. The book is chock full of fun facts and novel ways to exercise, all aimed at kids making healthy choices as they grow. In fact, most pages have a fun tip, an activity or interesting fact about the food being prepared. (Ever wonder why they call them "Buffalo Chicken Wings"? - Freddy has the answer!)

Having self-published the volume, the challenge for best friends Eck and Grove is to get *Freddy, Fork it Over* into the hands of consumers. So far that's meant talking with a lot of businesses on two different continents. Grove lives in Springfield, but Eck currently calls Nairobi, Kenya, home. The book went on sale late last year with a limited printing and so far sales have been mostly to family and friends. However, a change could be coming - a big win came recently when Amazon agreed to sell copies of the book online (there's also a Kindle version available) and Grove says she hopes stores like Barnes & Noble will also pick it up.

In the meantime, parents and kids can find out more about the book from the *Freddy, Fork it Over* page on Facebook or by visiting [freddy-fork-it-over.com](http://freddy-fork-it-over.com). Copies of the book are available through the website for \$14.95. □

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## ***Freddy, Fork It Over***

By Farah Salim Eck and Brandy Moore Grove  
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# For the future

## Recycling is a worthwhile but costly endeavor

By Gabe House

The business world is filled with dichotomies. There's an almost perpetual ebb and flow involved in any commercial endeavor. This is true even with something as seemingly altruistic as the practice of recycling.

Lake Area Disposal recently shut down its Sixth Street recycling drop-off center, citing high maintenance costs and disappearing returns on the recyclables. Midwest Fiber Recycling, meanwhile, was listed as the 70th largest material recovery facility in the United States, according to research conducted by IBISWorld. The recycling company, based in Normal, tallied 149,764,000 pounds of recyclables in 2014.

"Recycling is a commodity just like traditional agricultural products," explained Todd Shumaker, Midwest Fiber's co-owner and director of sales. "There are a number of factors that affect the value, and a lot of those are out of our control. It depends on overseas economy, the value of the dollar, the price of oil. All these factors come into play."

"The real challenge is devising systems that can be sustainable through bad markets as well as good markets. Unfortunately, a lot of programs get set up when the market is good, but if it goes down, the program can't sustain itself. There's a volume side to it, but there is a balance as well of the commodity and its marketable value."

For Lake Area Disposal, the costs simply outweighed the return, at least in the case of the drop-off center. Its metal buyback was unaffected, as was its commercial cardboard and paper recycling programs. And its curbside recycling service is actually more

popular than ever.

"The amount of bins we've handed out since the closure, I think it's been 200 bins in three weeks," said Sheri Crenshaw of Lake Area Disposal, "and that's just our customers. Those are people who used our (drop-off) facility even though they had curbside services available. They liked the convenience of dropping it off whenever they wanted to."

The drop-off location closed Dec. 18 but was reopened temporarily for two weeks after Christmas for an influx of wrapping paper and gift boxes. It was permanently closed in early January. There had been talk of the city of Springfield stepping in, an idea Crenshaw was quick to dismiss.

"We won't work with the city," Crenshaw said. "No, we're privately owned and funded. The political aspect and paperwork ... and, honestly, I don't think they could fund us."

Springfield is now left without a drop-off location. Midwest Fiber Recycling does have a facility in Springfield – Shumaker believed they purchased it in 2012 – and would one day like to turn it into a full-fledged recycling facility. There's no clear timetable for that, though.

"We definitely see some possibility for expansion to our Springfield facility," Shumaker said.

Midwest Fiber Recycling already has active processing facilities in Normal, Decatur, Peoria and Terra Haute, Indiana. The business has commercial recycling aspects, a paper-shredding service and even a composting program. Its Normal facility specializes in single-stream recyclable

processing, which allows for a commingling of a variety of recyclables, including plastics, paper and metals.

"Specifically, speaking of single-stream recycling, we have a good partnership with many of the communities we work with, and we share the risk of the commodity market structure," Shumaker said. "My father bought the business 26 years ago, and sometimes recycling has a negative connotation that someone may get ripped off, thinking 'what's this really worth?' I think just having good, open relationships with our suppliers gets us through down markets like this to get us back to good markets."

The talk of low return for recyclables is part of a difficult conversation. Shumaker said that recycling gained prominence as an alternative to traditional waste management. Rather than continuing to fill landfills already nearing capacity, people sought to reduce, reuse and recycle, as the old slogan went. The fact that some of those materials actually brought in revenue to waste haulers, businesses and/or communities taking part in recycling was just a fortunate coincidence.

"Some communities may have gotten rid of recycling programs, but I think that's shortsighted," Shumaker said. "Just because we have a small blip in the market, there may be some overreacting. We've been successful in planning for down markets and it's happened before. People shouldn't stop recycling, there are still markets for the material."

Crenshaw said part of the problem for Lake Area Disposal wasn't just the shrinking

returns for recyclable material, but also the fact that the city of Springfield sets the garbage rates. Crenshaw said they haven't raised their collection rates in more than 10 years as a result. An alderman must propose a rate change, she said, in order to begin the process of altering fees.

Commercial pickup and recycling – which includes paper and cardboard – rates can be set differently, Crenshaw said, and Lake Area Disposal is rather busy in those departments.

"We have, I think, 100 cardboard and 50 paper commercial customers," Crenshaw said. "They are just like garbage containers. Some of the commercial routes, we pick up a two-yarder three times a week. It all depends on what kind of business it is."

Commingling or single-stream recycling isn't often feasible for many businesses, Crenshaw said. The amount of material produced often doesn't warrant a pickup. Paper and cardboard, however, are usually produced in much greater volume.

Shumaker, though, said that recycling in – and by – businesses is quite often a result of home-based recycling.

"In central Illinois, most people have access to recycling at their house, and they go to work wanting to practice that same recycling as well," Shumaker said. "I think it's a social responsibility. It's the right thing to do. And sometimes it will bring some value, some money back to the bottom line." □

Gabe House is a freelance writer in Springfield.

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# The fight over digital spectrum space

By Ann Strahle

Breaking into the broadcast media business is usually not easy. It takes a good education, worthwhile internships and sometimes a little luck. But one Illinois university may not be able to provide the same kind of broadcast education they have in the past because of the possible loss of their in-house PBS affiliate.

Springfield resident Blake Wood got his start in broadcasting as a student at Eastern Illinois University. Along with his coursework, Wood worked at the PBS affiliate on campus, WEIU-TV. "It helped me get my first job, that's the most important thing. It's a huge resume builder to work at an actual PBS station that broadcasts over the air, and when I started applying for jobs, the news directors would ask me about the station. They would say, 'Wait, it's a real PBS station and it broadcasts to the community?'" Immediately following graduation, Wood went on to work for WCIA-TV. He now works in public relations in Springfield.

But Wood's positive college experience may not be a reality for future students at Eastern. Last month, the station manager at WEIU-TV announced they were considering auctioning off their frequency to the Federal Communications Commission.

In a press release, WEIU general manager Jack Neal outlined the FCC's reasoning for the auction and what it means for the future of the station and Eastern. Stations have been asked by the FCC to volunteer to have their frequencies auctioned off, which means stations will either go off the air or transition to another frequency. Neal said channel 50, the channel WEIU sits on, might be referred to as "digital beachfront property," the highest channel in the current allotment of frequencies for TV. "One way or the other, WEIU-TV will need to leave channel 50 when this process concludes," Neal said.

The reasoning behind the FCC spectrum auction is somewhat complicated, but in a nutshell, Congress voted to increase our country's digital connectivity and charged the FCC with finding ways to free up



Tarble Arts Center at Eastern Illinois University. Pictured at the podium is Eastern Illinois University president David Glassman, seated is WEIU general manager Jack Neal.

PHOTO BY BLAKE WOOD

bandwidth in specialized frequency bands. The FCC will then sell that bandwidth to companies requiring it.

Neal said the opening bid for WEIU's frequency is around \$105.5 million but that is not a guarantee of the amount of money WEIU would receive. He said the opening bids were created to drum up station interest. Should WEIU sell off the spectrum allocated for its television operations, the station would cease function within 60 days.

The university had to make a decision by Jan. 12 to express interest in the FCC auction in order to be eligible for it. But the university can bow out of the auction, which starts March 29, between now and then. The university has chosen not to make its decision public at this time.

Because of the lack of a state budget, Eastern Illinois University faces serious economic issues, as do the other institutions of higher learning in the state. While this potential windfall may appear fortuitous for Eastern, the university is not alone in their consideration of a spectrum auction. For example, Howard University in Washington, D.C., has been struggling financially for several years. In the fall, the university had to cut 84 positions. Similar to Eastern, Howard is considering auctioning off the

frequency for WHUT-TV, the nation's first African-American-owned public television station. This has been met with a great deal of opposition.

During a forum in January on Eastern's campus, WEIU's general manager outlined what could happen if the station's frequency is auctioned off. He told a crowd consisting of community members, alumni and current students that the station could eventually be moved to a lower number on the spectrum or cease broadcasting altogether. In this instance, all locally produced programming would exist online or be broadcast on other cable stations.

Wood, who attended the forum, said, "As an alum, that is something I am concerned about. There are other PBS stations around the area, but WEIU has a unique niche in the Charlestown area because they not only provide PBS programming but local news to that area. It's an area that is not often served by other cities."

The concern over the potential loss of local news coverage was brought up at the forum by a number of people, including Wood. "I still think that a lot of people in the area rely on WEIU-TV for their local news and information," he said. "There was discussion at the forum about people

over the age of 65, and how a large number of them still use over-the-air television as their source of information. One of the questions posed was 'Do you have any ways to continue to get information to this age group of people?' and there wasn't really a great response to that."

In a recent staff editorial, the *Journal Gazette* and *Times Courier* in Mattoon agreed, saying that WEIU provides local broadcast news to an area that is not well-served by far-flung stations such as WILL-TV from Champaign and WSIU-TV in Carbondale.

WEIU provides local weather and news through shows such as "NewsWatch." Neal said the station is exploring online streaming services such as YouTube and other social media platforms for dissemination. National PBS programs would continue to be shown on other stations within the multi-station PBS market as well as online. Neal said the station is exploring co-production opportunities with WILL-TV at the University of Illinois which would allow WEIU's locally produced stories to be aired by them. Similar arrangements would also be sought with cable companies.

Wood's ultimate hope is that WEIU remains an over-the-air broadcast station, providing a real-life television experience for the students which he says is not always possible with preproduced programming online or on cable. "I hope that WEIU stays the way it currently is. There are some things that can happen with the spectrum auction. They could be moved to a lower channel. I am perfectly fine with that, as long as they keep broadcasting over the airwaves."

The FCC is enforcing a quiet period for interested stations, which began on Jan. 12. This means no discussion can take place regarding the process or potential involvement because of anti-collusion laws. This period is scheduled to end in the third quarter of 2016. □

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

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# Nudo continues to grow under new ownership

By Roberta Codemo

Nudo Products, Inc. has a long history dating back to 1954 when the late Sam Nudo, Sr. and his brother founded Economy Awning and Tile Co. Sam and his wife, Wanda, purchased his brother's share of the business in 1962 and began manufacturing laminated products with the help of their sons.

Today, the company operates out of six buildings totaling close to 500,000 square feet on the corner of South Grand and Taylor with manufacturing and distribution facilities nationwide, including Ohio, Texas and California. The company has 400 employees, 200 of which work out of the Springfield headquarters.

In 2008, the family sold the company to RFE Investment Partners, a private equity investment group in New Canaan, Connecticut, and in 2015 RFE sold it to Grupo Verzatec, an international company with headquarters in Monterrey, Mexico, and the parent company of Stabilit America.

The family of Nudo brands – Prime Panels, Inc., Midwest Folding Products

and Marlite, Inc. – manufactures laminated panels for the building and construction industries. The company is an industry leader in its field and partners with customers in the architectural design, building products, signage and transportation industries to provide customized solutions to meet their needs.

"Nudo is a pretty special company," said Darryl Rosser, president and CEO. Its unique custom batch manufacturing operations lets the company service a wide range of customer requirements. It can tailor products to any cut size or specification.

"We have a diverse product mix," continued Rosser. "The company is a one-stop shop and that's what makes it unique in the industry. We offer a complete building package to the customer."

Nudo specializes in ceiling, exterior, floor, sign and wall panels, as well as a wide range of panel accessories, for agricultural and commercial facilities. It is also one of the largest manufacturers of trailer swing doors.

Panel products are manufactured using a variety of substrates including composites, gypsum, plywood and oriented strand board, and finishes like aluminum, fiberglass, high-density polyethylene and high-pressure laminate. As the largest laminator in the country, it performs more than one million laminations a year.

The key to the company's success is its customer base which includes Burger King, Macy's, Planet Fitness, Rite Aid, Urban Outfitters and Wendy's. It has maintained long-term customer relations with some companies for more than 10 years and delivers responsive, consistent and solution-oriented customer service.

"From the first order and every subsequent one after that, customers can expect the company to deliver the right product at the right price at the right time," according to Rosser. Its customer satisfaction score is the highest in the industry and management's goal is to simplify the process for the customer, including a simple

ordering process, fast turn times and its own transportation network.

In 2015, the company received the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification. "We try to be good environmental stewards," said Rosser, who added, "Commercial developers are increasingly requesting FSC-certified wood products because use of these products helps them attain LEED status from the U.S. Green Building Council."

The company has a deep commitment to the FSC mission to promote environmentally sound, socially beneficial and economically prosperous management of the world's forests and is committed to providing a better environment for our planet today and our children's tomorrow.

A segment of their customer base also demands that their products meet more stringent environmental standards going all the way back to the forest and the process used to convert trees into the finished product. By selecting FSC-certified products,

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customers are able to maintain their commitment to using products derived from responsibly managed forests.

"We issue a certificate of authenticity to ensure the product meets their requirements," said Rosser. The company tries to provide its customers with the materials they need in the most responsible manner possible.

Every company has its own unique culture. "Our company culture defines

who we are," said Rosser. "It's what drives us." The company has identified key elements that are important to it: focused, professional, customer sensitive, team oriented, trustworthy, innovative, respectful, consistent and giving back.

This culture is exemplified in the daily work environment at Nudo, from the products the employees produce to the services they provide to the customers

and the way the company gives back to those less fortunate in the community. The company strives to create an environment that is rewarding and makes it enjoyable for employees to come to work every day.

The company created Nudo Cares, a volunteer group of employees who have the motto of "Helping the Springfield Community One Person at a Time." To date, it has given more than \$50,000 to local

charitable organizations and its employees are involved with a number of different community activities.

"Today, the company remains strong," said Rosser. "It has strong financials and a strong leadership team at all levels." □

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



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Sources: As listed on the Capital Association of Realtors website:  
[http://seebuildings.com/fs\\_crenmembers.php](http://seebuildings.com/fs_crenmembers.php)  
 (Members listed alphabetically)

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Dennis Albanese	Albanese Realty Corp.	319 E. Madison, Ste 3A, Springfield, IL, 62701	dennisalbanese@il-hotels.com	217-522-7900	217-899-3400	309-210=7253
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Betty Webb	Webb & Associates Realty	920 S. Spring, Suite 2400, Springfield IL 62704	bettywebb@realtor.com	217-726-8000	217-341-4924	217-744=8090



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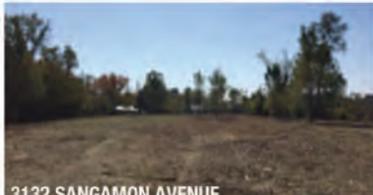
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Still in progress, the IDOT High Speed Rail upgrade of Lincoln's passenger station has brought new life at the epicenter of downtown revitalization efforts.

PHOTOS BY STACIE LEWIS

# A force awakens in Lincoln

By Catherine O'Connor

The historic train station in the city of Lincoln is experiencing the latest of several makeovers in its 105-year lifespan. Improvements as part of the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) High Speed Rail (HSR) track upgrade on the Chicago-St. Louis corridor have led to a depot renovation project now underway that will include a new boarding platform, accessible parking, a drop-off area and long-term off-street parking with pedestrian and bike access, according to IDOT passenger rail marketing manager Scott Speegle.

In best-case scenario economic development fashion, the IDOT investment of federal HSR funding for the station

upgrade has spurred the creation of a new downtown tax increment financing (TIF) district where a local business revitalization and a major theater grand opening has already taken shape.

The first modernization of Lincoln's 1911 depot was an addition built in the 1970s which housed a once popular restaurant and catering business. Through the '70s and '80s, the funky depot eatery featured seating in a train lounge car, a dining car and two cabooses, as well as artifacts from the golden age of train travel. As part of the most recent upgrade, the Chicago-based railroad conglomerate Iowa Pacific Holdings was selected by IDOT and Lincoln to move the antique rail cars to

Chicago, where they will be restored to be used for future charter or excursion service.

Illinois received a total of \$57.1 million dollars from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grant. With its share, the city of Lincoln put on quite a show in early October, as extra large cranes and specialized flat bed trailers were brought in to remove the sidelined train cars from the depot site, making way for remodeling at the passenger station.

Meanwhile, just across Kickapoo Street from the train depot project is the site of a new venture developed by David Lanterman, a downtown Lincoln advocate. In 2011, Lanterman made a bold strategic move to purchase the Lincoln Theater 4

from national chain Carmike Cinemas. With its classic neon lights heralding the name "Lincoln," the theater is one of very few left in the country which has been in continuous use since its opening as a single stage vaudeville house in 1923.

Lanterman, along with partners and investors, has been busy for the past five years creating the elements that he and Mayor Marty Neitzel agree will make Lincoln an entertainment destination not just for local residents, but also attracting out of town tourists. As an incentive for growth and development, the city created a downtown TIF district in 2012, which provided a grant for \$2 million of the total \$6.6 million theater project.

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Interior renovations of Lincoln's 1911 train depot are currently underway.



Images on a mural in downtown Lincoln symbolize efforts to preserve the community's history with an eye toward progress.

According to the mayor, the TIF has also allowed the establishment of a facade grant program, which provides \$10,000 or up to 50 percent of project costs for exterior facade renovation projects to downtown businesses. An important link in this process is the work of an economic development director, a full-time position funded by a hotel/motel tax. Also, city administrator Clay Johnson brings professional public administration knowledge and perspective at this exciting time in Lincoln's history.

The theater project involved the demolition of two older buildings on Kickapoo Street to create space to replace

two of the four older screens with a six screen expansion, resulting in what is now the block-long Lincoln Grand 8 multiplex. Both the theater/restaurant project and the rail passenger station are located within Lincoln's historic district, so care was taken to respect the architectural characteristics of the area, according to Johnson.

At the corner of Clinton and Kickapoo, the new eight-screen theater is flanked by the historic Sandel's Service station, a 1930s building that is the planned site of a new restaurant offering access to one of the auditoriums. This would allow for a dinner theater concept, which is still in the planning stages, according to Lanterman.

Another addition to the downtown square on Pulaski Street is the Spirited Republic microbrewery, offering local craft beers and fine wines with indoor and outdoor seating. Its back door provides access onto a patio near the entrance to Guzzardo's Italian Villa restaurant, a fixture in Lincoln for more than 40 years. Around the corner on Kickapoo, the newly opened Deep Roots Bakery and Cafe has also sprung up.

Mayor Neitzel, a lifelong resident, said, "downtown Lincoln looks better than it has in many years. I'd like to see us develop bus or train tours, to bring people here because there is so much interest in our resale shops,

restaurants and now the theater."

According to Johnson, there has been a need for public education to answer concerns about why public funds are being used to help private business. "There is tangible evidence of success when residents say to me, 'now I don't have to go out of town to see a movie,'" Johnson remarked.

And those moviegoers no doubt found it especially significant that the opening of the expanded Lincoln Grand 8 coincided with the holiday premiere of the blockbuster film, *Star Wars 7: The Force Awakens*. □

Catherine O'Connor can be reached at [catherineoconnor912@gmail.com](mailto:catherineoconnor912@gmail.com).

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Sources: The builders.  
(Ranked by number of full-time employees)

	BUSINESS NAME STREET ADDRESS CITY/ST/ ZIP	PHONE (-) FAX (=) WEBSITE (www.) E-MAIL	NUMBER OF FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES	PARTNERS / PRINCIPALS	AREAS OF SPECIALTY	% SUB- CONTRACTED	RECENT NOTABLE PROJECTS	YEAR EST'D
1	<b>United Contractors Midwest, Inc.</b> 3151 Robbins Road Springfield IL 62704	217-546-6192 217-546=1904 ucm.biz contact@ucm.biz	170	Robert Bruner, Pres; Mike Cullinan, Chairman	Asphalt Paving, Concrete Paving, Bridge Building, Earthwork	15	I-55 overlay from Lincoln north to McClean County line; Widen Route 29 to four lanes between Spring- field-Rochester-Taylorville; Wabash Ave. new construc- tion adding lanes, asphalt paving, and earthwork; 1-55 resurfacing north of the Lake Springfield bridge to Southwind Road.	2001
2	<b>O'Shea Builders</b> 3401 Constitution Drive Springfield IL 62711	217-522-2826 888-930=2009 osheabuilders.com mikeoshea@osheabuilders.com	155	Michael E. O'Shea, Pres; David L. "Bud" O'Shea, CEO	Design-Build, Construction Management, General Contracting, Pre-Construction Services, Remodels, Additions and Maintenance	70	Illinois: Memorial Medical Center Expansion Project, Springfield Clinic 1st North, Brandt Consolidated Building Addition, Passavant Area Hospital, Abraham Lincoln Memorial Hospital, Taylorville Memorial Medical Center, Kerasotes Branch of the Springfield YMCA/Sportscafe, Matheny-Withrow Elementary School, Springfield Pepsi Bottling Co., Central Illinois Foodbank, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception Restoration Project, Orthopedic Center of Illinois.	1902
3	<b>Halverson Construction Co., Inc.</b> 620 N. 19th St. Springfield IL 62702	217-753-0027 217-753=1904 halversonconstruction.com stevenh@halversonconstruc- tion.com	80	Steven Halverson, Pres; Larry Antonacci, VP; Kyle Zellers, VP; Wendiline Schluter, CFO	Gen. Contracting, Bridges, Commercial/Industrial Construction, Const Mgt, Steel Erection, Pre-Cast	30	Illinois: A. Lincoln Presidential Library Parking Garage, Union Station Restoration, MacArthur Blvd Highway Bridges/Interchange/Extension, St. Joseph Home Dementia Wing Addn., Erin's Pavilion, Motomart Convenience Store Gas Station, SMTD - Springfield Mass Transit District, Camp Lincoln, Renovate Jacksonville High School, IHoP, CEFCU, County Market (2nd & Carpenter), PCCC phase 2&3.	1978
4	<b>Jones-Blythe Construction Company</b> 1030 W. Reynolds St. Springfield IL 62702	217-787-1640 217-787=1666 jones-blythe.com jblythe@jones-blythe.com	60	John F. Blythe	Design-Build, Gen Contractor, Construction Management, Industrial Construction	60	Spfld, Ill.: Springfield, IL: St. John's Hospital, Memorial Medical Center. Illinois: Enbridge Pipeline	1930



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5	<b>Sangamo Construction</b> 2100 E. Moffat Springfield IL 62702	217-544-9871 217-544=9873 sangamo.net office@sangamo.net	50	Allan Reyhan, Jr.; Matthew P. Reyhan	Bridge/ Highway Construction	20	Illinois: IL 336 Macomb - 3 structures, I-55 / IL 96 - 3 structures / I-57 - 2 rehab structures / Assumption - 5 new structures.	1990
6	<b>R. D. Lawrence Construction Co. Ltd.</b> 603 N. Amos Ave. Springfield IL 62702	217-787-1384 217-787=3856 rdlawrence.com info@rdlawrence.com	45	John Goetz	General, Contracting, Design-Build	60	Horace Mann Garden Project; First Presbyterian Church, Jacksonville, IL; Building Restoration and Update; Logan Correctional Facility Upgrade for Residential Treatment Unit; Horace Mann Cafeteria Upgrade; Lincoln Vault Restoration - Upgrade; Meredosia Jr./Sr. High School Renovation.	1984
7	<b>Newman-Alton Inc.</b> 719 Estill Drive Springfield IL 62707	217-753-1986 217-753=1988 salton@newman-alton.com	26	Patrick Newman; Steve Alton	General Contractors, Non-Union Construction Management, Design-Build	40	Prairie State Bank, Williamsville Library, Country Lane Retirement, Henry Technologies, Boy Scouts of America, Ruler Foods.	1992
8	<b>Evans Construction</b> 1900 E. Washington St. Springfield IL 62703	217-525-1456 217-525=2886 evansconst.com don@evansconst.com	20	Donald Evans, Pres	General Contracting, Construction Manage- ment, Design / Build, Commercial / Industrial Construction	60	Springfield, IL: Memorial Medical Center Renovations, SIU School of Medicine Library, St. Joseph's Remodel, Mother House Demo and Remodel	1913
8	<b>Siciliano Inc.</b> 3601 Winchester Road Springfield IL 62707	217-585-1200 217-585=1211 sicilianoinc.com buildit@sicilianoinc.com	20	Richard E. Lawrence, Pres; Aubrie Megginson, CFO; Kim Lawrence, Sec	General Contractor, Historical Restoration, Design-Build, Commercial/Industrial Construction, Site Work	15	Historical restoration Booth-Bateman/Kennedy-Ferguson Building downtown Springfield, IL; AMEREN Services - Multiple projects throughout state; State Retirement Systems new security upgrades.	1968



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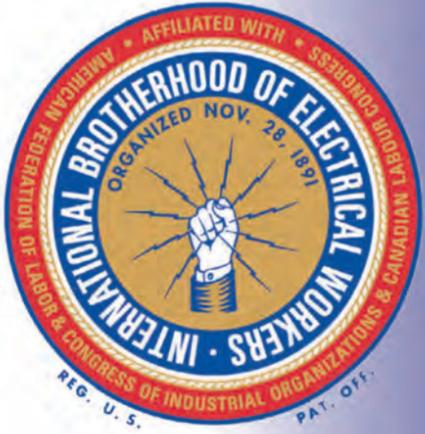
# ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS

Sources: The Electrical Contractors.  
(Ranked by number of full-time employees)

	BUSINESS NAME STREET ADDRESS CITY/ST/ ZIP	PHONE (-) FAX (=) WEBSITE (www.) E-MAIL	NUMBER OF FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES	PARTNERS / PRINCIPALS	UNION AFFILIATED	RECENT NOTABLE PROJECTS	YEAR EST'D
1	<b>Anderson Electric, Inc.</b> 3501 Sixth St. Hwy. W., Suite # 1 Springfield IL 62703	(217) 529-5471 (217) 529-0412 anderson-electric.com wesa@anderson-electric.com	240	Employee Owned	Yes	SIU Simmon's Cancer Center, Porta High School - Wind Turbine Project, Illinois Primary Healthcare, Concordia Village various projects, White Oaks Mall rehab, First United Methodist Church, SMTD, St. John's Hospital reroute systems and demo, Spring Creek Water Treatment Plant, CWLP contract 3 pump stations, Passavant Hospital medical office building, Meijer renovation, Ball Elementary addition - Chatham, Memorial Medical Center surgery expansion & patient care tower.	1918
2	<b>B &amp; B Electric, Inc.</b> 3000 Reilly Drive Springfield IL 62703	(217) 528-9666 (217) 528-5481 bnbelectric.net todd@bnbelectric.net	88	Todd M. Brinkman	Yes	Springfield: State Capitol / Supreme Court / PCCC renovations, Kindred Healthcare, Memorial Medical Center, Springfield Clinic First - North, St. John's Sixth St. - Lincolnshire, New Orthopedic Center, LLC - Workforce Center, Prairie Diagnostic Center, New Vision Care, Sacred Heart-Griffin addition, YMCA, Glenwood Elementary School; Lincoln: A. Lincoln Memorial Hospital and Office Building; Jacksonville: Passavant Hospital; Taylorville: Taylorville Memorial Hospital, Medical Office Building, MMC - Learning Center, Altorfer, and Calvary Church.	1962
3	<b>Egizii Electric</b> 3009 Singer Ave. Springfield IL 62703	(217) 528-4001 (217) 528-1677 eeiholding.com dorse@eeiholding.com	42	Robert W. Egizii	Yes	Dallman Generating Station (CWLP), President Abraham Lincoln Museum, Industrial Nuclear Power, Kennedy Space Center, Boeing Aircraft, Wilkes Barre, PA, Mitsubishi Motors Manufacturing, various lock and dam projects, Mars Pet Care, Memorial Stadium (U of I), Ft. Lauderdale Airport, Martin Marietta, Mox-Oxide Nuclear Facility (SC).	1948
4	<b>Ryan Electrical Solutions</b> 1305 W. Enos Ave. Springfield IL 62702	(217) 698-4877 (217) 698-8481 ryanelectricalsolutions.com dennis@ryanelectricalsolutions.com	30	Dennis Ryan	No	Various Commercial, Residential and Audio Visual Projects. Agriculture. Back-up and portable generator sales, installation and services.	1995
5	<b>Ruby Electric</b> 341 S. Meadowbrook Road Springfield IL 62711	(217) 787-4949 (217) 787-2043 rubyelectric.com johnruby@rubyelectric.com	23	John Ruby	No	Various Commercial and Residential Projects, Standby Generator Systems Commercial and Residential.	1978
6	<b>Lindsey Electric</b> 3260 Terminal Ave. Springfield IL 62707	(217) 544-6789 (217) 544-9591 lindsey-electric.com lori@lindsey-electric.com	12	Catherine A. Lindsey - Pres., J. Michael Lindsey - V.P., Lori A. Lindsey Von Behren - Corp. Sec.	Yes	Various Commercial & Residential Projects.	1972
7	<b>Jim Watts Electric</b> 2801 E. Sangamon Ave. Springfield IL 62702	217-652-9950 wattselectric1@yahoo.com www.jimwattselectric.com	11	Jim Watts	No	Various residential and commercial, generators, audio/visual, security systems	2011
8	<b>Mansfield Electric Co.</b> 4425 N. Peoria Road Springfield IL 62702	(217) 523-0811 (217) 528-3111 ed@mansfield-electric.com	10	H. Edward Midden, III	Yes	Sangamon County Complex, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, UIS - University Hall, The Bridge Short Stay Nursing Home, Enos Elementary School, Hy-Vee.	1949
8	<b>Harney Electric</b> 1499 W. State Route 29 Athens IL 62613	217-636-9000 217-636-8927 jerry.judd@sbcglobal.net	10	Jerry Judd	Yes	Virginia School District, Springfield Pepsi, LRS, SIU School of Medicine, Brown County Schools, Illinois Veteran's Home, Springfield Metro Sanitary District, IDOT Warehouse Buildings	
9	<b>Carmean Electric Inc.</b> 2863 Singer Ave. Springfield IL 62703	(217) 789-1155 (217) 789-9578 carneanelectric@gmail.com carneanelectricspringfield.com	8	Wayne Shephard	Yes	Various Residential and Commercial projects. 24-hour emergency service, maintenance, new wiring, re-wiring, utility work, solar design and installation, LED lighting.	1970



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Steven W. Bridgewater  
475 S. Clay Ave. • Jacksonville, IL 62650  
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# LRS helps expand aviation program

By Job Conger

On Jan. 8, a group of local dignitaries came together to formally announce Levi, Ray & Shoup's contribution of \$850,000 to permit construction of expanded educational facilities on the airport's south quadrant off J. David Jones Parkway. The announcement was made by Mayor Jim Langfelder; Mark Hanna, executive director of Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport; Dr. Charlotte Warren, president of Lincoln Land Community College; and Richard Levi, CEO of Levi, Ray & Shoup. In addition to greater classroom capacity, the new building will have a computer lab and expanded administrative offices. It will be named the Levi, Ray & Shoup, Inc. Aviation Center of Lincoln Land Community College.

Standard Aero, an aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul company located on the airport's north quadrant, has indicated plans to significantly add to its local work force in the future. While officials credited the recent announcement to Standard Aero's intentions, the value of growing LLCC's aviation program has been obvious for some time. Expanding the program was first considered six years ago, when Jim van

Kleek was director of the aviation school. Although drawings were prepared, funding was not forthcoming.

David Pietrzak joined the faculty in 2008 and became program director in 2013. He explained. "We started talking with Standard Aero and the Chamber of Commerce last spring. I attended some meetings and Senator Durbin even helped. There just wasn't money for capital improvements to build the building. Then Dick Levi came forward with the January contribution announcement. That was the lynchpin," he said. "There will be help from other sources for equipment."

The current class began Jan. 19 with expectations of enrolling 10 students. Financial assistance for some students is provided through the WIA (Workforce Investment Act) which provides retraining for workers displaced by the failure of previous employers.

Some members of the current class will be working as interns for Standard Aero before they graduate, helping mechanics, learning basic tasks and allowing their supervisors to concentrate their time on

activities requiring more advanced skills. "They want to hire a handful of our best students before they graduate. Even during the last recession, every graduate of our program who wanted to work, found a job right away," said Hanna. "Wage scales begin at \$59,000 per year. These are very significant jobs."

The Federal Aviation Administration has certified the program to teach up to 75 students with a ratio of one teacher for every 25 students. With this additional capacity, they intend to recruit students to fill it.

"We need to let students, even in junior high, know that this is a career option for them. A lot of educators are pushing (four-year college programs)," Hanna said. "This is not grimy, greasy, monkey wrench kind of work. When I was a technician, I used to go home with clean clothes and didn't get the car dirty. I want high schools to sponsor career days we can attend to promote our program. Some schools allow students to come out here and shadow our students. I wish more schools would."

According to statistics cited by Hanna,



PHOTO COURTESY OF LLCC.EDU/AVIATION

about 60 percent of aviation trade students go to work for the aviation industry. "The rest are siphoned off by head hunters to go to work in related industries like NASCAR, manufacturing and wind industry," he said. "Students must show proficiencies in many skills - electrical, mechanical, sheet metal, pneumatics, hydraulics - to graduate."

Groundbreaking for the facility is planned for spring.

For more information and updates, visit [www.llcc.edu/aviation](http://www.llcc.edu/aviation). □

*Job Conger is a freelance writer in Springfield.*

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# Airport commerce park prepares for takeoff

David A. Kelm

When national food wholesaler Sysco acquired Roberts Foods several years back, an effort began at Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport that will soon begin bearing fruit for the Springfield economy. After the buyout, Roberts Sysco Food Service sought a location more convenient for the business, with ready access to highways and space to grow. While the company eventually relocated to Logan County, the process launched an examination of land use that has resulted in the creation of Airport Commerce Park.

Airport Commerce Park is owned by the Springfield Airport Authority, comprised of eight members who oversee airport operations with the assistance of executive director Mark Hanna. The park is comprised of approximately 150 acres situated along Veterans Parkway. "The airport authority views the airport and the park as supporting the economic vitality of the Springfield community," said Hanna. "The main point of developing a commercial park is to support job creation and wage earners, especially on the north side of Springfield."

As with all such large-scale projects, there are a number of hurdles that Hanna and the airport authority have had to clear, including regulations imposed by the Federal Aviation Administration regarding the proximity of the park to airport operations. "We have two final pieces of the puzzle to snap into place,"

continued Hanna. "We expect the capstone of this project to be completed during the first quarter of 2016." The final touches are being completed on the environmental work that is necessary for potential developers and investors as well as a final review and release by the FAA, which is expected in the next few weeks. "In order for a non-aviation business to lease space, the FAA must provide a release for concurrent use at the park," said Hanna.

While there are a number of similar locations for commercial development across the Springfield area, Hanna does not believe Airport Commerce Park will be in competition with other developments. "The airport authority sees this unique location as supporting the community at large," Hanna said. "We are working with the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce's Q5 program to achieve job creation goals for Springfield." As part of this cooperative spirit, the Park has undergone site selection certification to provide potential developers and tenants the knowledge that the site is "shovel ready."

Current plans for Airport Commerce Park are conceptual, as envisioned by the airport engineers. Lot sizes begin at three acres and range up to 25-plus acres. Given flight patterns, buildings could vary in height but would likely have a maximum of 40 to 60 feet depending on placement at the park.

Utilities, streets, sewer and soil composition have already been contemplated and are available for developers. While the park will technically be outside the fence of the airport, the property falls at the south end of Runway 18-36. "If a tenant approached us with an aeronautical need we could certainly accommodate that with access and onsite hangar options," Hanna said.

Airports of every size are developing or have already launched commercial and industrial parks with excess land surrounding airport facilities. Some airports have also broadened into renewable energy by developing solar farms. "During the Roberts Sysco discussion, the location along Veterans was the most logical for development," explained Hanna. "The airport has commercial development on the north end, especially with Standard Aero, but there is greater access to transportation networks along the south edge." Additional developments at the airport also include the expansion of Lincoln Land Community College's aviation mechanics program through a donation by Levi, Ray & Shoup, Inc. (see accompanying story).

The SAA and Hanna envision possible uses for Airport Commerce Park to include office, logistics, warehousing and light industrial. Additionally, the 4,000 feet of frontage along Veterans Parkway could

accommodate hotels, restaurants and strip centers. Current traffic numbers indicate that 17,000 cars per day travel past the park and there are plans for traffic control to be installed at Veterans and Lincoln Avenue to ease access into the park.

Currently, Airport Commerce Park is being farmed not for solar energy but corn and beans. The SAA has put in place an effort to transform the rolling fields and wooded area into a new economic development hub for Springfield's north end. With easy access to I-55 and I-72, up-to-date infrastructure and high traffic counts, the park could soon see interest from site selectors, developers and tenants. Additionally, with discussions about launching a Business I-72 corridor (see January's *Springfield Business Journal*), Airport Commerce Park could become an anchor for the new corridor. The SAA and Hanna recognize that Airport Commerce Park will benefit the airport, but more importantly they understand that the development will benefit the greater Springfield economy. "The airport is not an island," Hanna said. "We are creating Airport Commerce Park in partnership with the community." □

*David A. Kelm is a Springfield-area attorney. He can be reached at DavidAKelm@gmail.com.*






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# TRADE UNIONS

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

	UNION NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE (-) FAX (=) WEBSITE (www.) EMPLOYEES	2015 LOCAL MEMBERSHIP	CONTACT(S)	NUMBER OF IL COUNTIES REPRESENTED	YEAR EST'D
1	Teamsters Local 916	3361 Teamster Way Springfield IL 62707	217-522-7932 217-522-9492 teamsters916.org lisa@teamsters916.org	4,412	Tony Barr, President	10	1943
2	International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 965	3520 E. Cook St. Springfield IL 62703	217-528-9659 217-528-9060 iuoe965.org operators@comcast.net	1,450	Dennis R. Minick, Business Manager	15	1931
3	United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, Local No. 270	211 W. Lawrence Ave. Springfield IL 62704	217-528-7571 217-528-9364	1,400	Carl Bimm, President	19	1887
4	Local 477 LIUNA Laborers	1615 N. Dirksen Parkway Springfield IL 62702	217-522-0014 217-522-0090 local477.com	1,380	Brad Schaive, Business Manager; Kirk Kellus, Secretary Treasurer	7	1903
5	Plumbers & Steamfitters, Local 137	2880 E. Cook St. Springfield IL 62703	217-544-2724 217-744-6855 ualocal137.org	950	John Haines, Business Manager	18	1895
6	International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local No. 193	3150 Wide Track Drive Springfield IL 62703	217-544-3479 217-544-0193 ibew193.com ibew193@comcast.net	940	Glenn Baugh, Business Manager	9	1901
7	Plasterers and Cement Masons, Local 18	40 Adloff Lane, Suite 6A Springfield IL 62703	217-585-4221 217-585-4222 lpcmia18.org sclementlocal18@yahoo.com	750	Steve Clement, Business Manager; Mark Winkler, Business Agent	32	1864
7	Sheet Metal Workers, Local 218	2855 Via Verde Springfield IL 62703	217-529-0161 217-529-6005	700	Ed Robison, Business Manager	21	1969
8	Iron Workers, Local 46	2888 E. Cook St. Springfield IL 62703	217-528-4041 217-528-9046 ironworkers46.org iwaustin@sbcglobal.net	500	Shane Austin, Business Manager	20	1908
9	Millwrights, Local 1051	602 Keokuk St. Lincoln IL 62656	217-735-1051 217-732-1051 millwrightlocal1051.com local1051@carpentersunion.org	296	Jeff Bort, Business Representative; Nate Hodgson, Business Representative	41	1987
10	International Union of Painters and Allied Trades, District Council 58, Local 90	3223 Lake Plaza Dr. Springfield, IL 62703	217-529-6976 217-529-6658 dc58iupat.net mbristow@dc58.net	273	Mike Bristow, Business Representative	9	1899
11	United Union of Roofers, Waterproofers and Allied Workers, Local 112	301 East Spruce Springfield IL 62704	217-210-2044 217-210-2041 rooferslocal112.com office@rooferslocal112.com	86	Ray Wake, Business Manager	14	1930



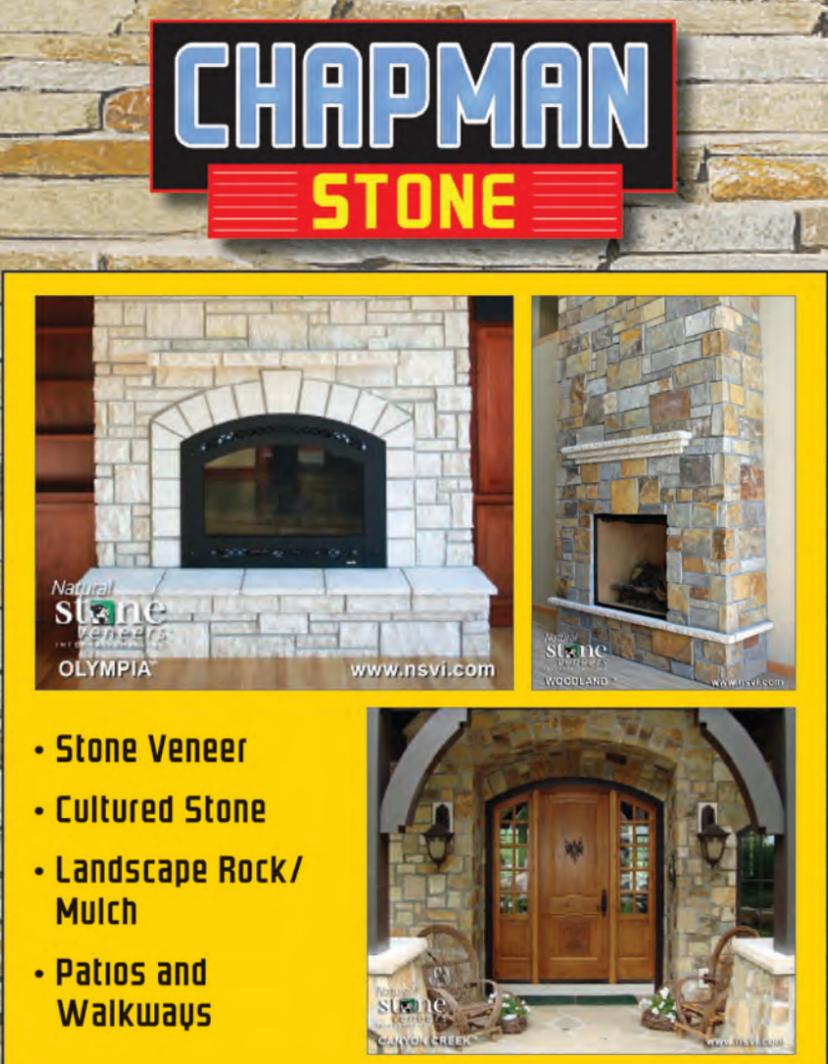
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# MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS

Sources: Mechanical Contractors Association of Central Illinois, The contractors.  
(Listed by total number of employees - peak season)

	BUSINESS NAME STREET ADDRESS CITY/ST/ ZIP	PHONE (-) FAX (=) WEBSITE (www.) E-MAIL	NUMBER OF FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES	PARTNERS / PRINCIPALS	TYPES OF SERVICES	RECENT NOTABLE PROJECTS	YEAR EST'D
1	<b>E. L. Pruitt</b> 3090 Colt Road Springfield IL 62707	217-789-0966 217-789=2694 elpruitt.com	303	John Pruitt	HVAC, Plumbing, Fire Protection, Architectural Sheet Metal	Springfield IL: Memorial Medical Center, St. Johns Hospital, Springfield Clinic first North, Prairie Dental Group, Concordia Village, Calvary Temple, Bunn Gourmet, Pie's the Limit, Casa Real Cocina Mexicana, Central Illinois Food Bank, PNC Bank, Lincoln Land Community College, University of Illinois, Springfield, Springfield Housing Authority; Passavant Area Hospital, Jacksonville IL; Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center, Mattoon IL; Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana IL; St. Anthony's Hospital, Effingham IL; Farmingdale Elementary School, Pleasant Plains IL; Glenwood High School New Addition, Chatham IL; Auburn High School, Auburn IL; Divernon Elementary School, Divernon IL; Buffalo/Tri-City School, Buffalo, IL; Student Housing University of Illinois, Champaign, IL; Millikin University, Decatur IL; Decatur Memorial Hospital, Decatur IL; SIU - Center for Family Medicine; Iles Park Place	1971
2	<b>Henson Robinson Company / Petersburg Plumbing and Excavating</b> 3550 Great Northern Ave. Springfield IL 62711	217-544-8451 217-544=0829 henson-robinson.com hrc@henson-robinson.com	231	Dan Hoselton	Commercial HVAC, Roofing, Plumbing, Piping, Refrigeration, Architectural Sheet Metal, HVAC/Plumbing Service, Sewer and Water Mains, Excavation, Residential Heating and Cooling Installation and Service	Education: U of I Champaign, UIS, Blackburn College, Lincoln College, St. John's College of Nursing, Springfield College, Springfield Public Schools, Ball/Chatham, Rochester, Decatur Public Schools, Sacred Heart-Griffin, Carlinville, Morrisonville, Athens/Cantrall, Murrayville, Ill. School for the Deaf; Medical: Memorial Medical Center, St. John's Hospital, Springfield Clinic, St. Francis Hospital, Bloomington Orthopedic, Hospital Sisters; Government: Capitol Complex, CWLP, IDoT, Ill. State Fairgrounds, Ill. Air Guard, Ill. Supreme Court, various Prison Facilities; Private Business: Hy-Vee, LA Fitness, Dick Van Dyke, Illinois Plumbing, Caterpillar, Carlisle, Brandt Consolidated, Ergadoo, White Oaks Plaza, 5 Guys, Heritage Manor, Marine Bank, State Bank of Lincoln, INB, Simon Properties, ADM.	1861
3	<b>F. J. Murphy &amp; Son, Inc.</b> 1800 Factory Ave. Springfield IL 62702	217-528-4081 217-528=4147 fjmurphy.com cricke@fjmurphy.com	75	Chad Fricke	Plumbing, Heating, Cooling, Fire Sprinklers, Refrigeration, Restaurant Equipment, Ice Machines, residential, commercial, institutional, installation and repair	Illinois Supreme Court, Illinois School for the Deaf, Jacksonville Development Center, Regency Nursing Home, Dept. of Agriculture, SEIU Offices, White House/Black Market, H.H. Gregg, White Oaks Mall, The Icing, Hot Topic, U of I Champaign, UIS, Western IL University, Eastern IL University, IL State University, Memorial Hospital, SIU Edwardsville, SIU Carbondale, Caterpillar Peoria, Preckwinkle Home upgrade, hundreds of small repair and remodel projects - residential and commercial.	1947
4	<b>Prairie State Plumbing &amp; Heating</b> 1499 W. State Route 29 Athens IL 62613	217-636-9000 217-636=8927 jerry.judd@sbcglobal.net	65	Jerry Judd	Plumbing, heating, cooling, electrical, mechanical, sitework, ventilation	Rochester Intermediate School, Rochester Athletic Complex, Mason District Hospital, Blessed Sacrament School, AT&T, Christian Homes, Springfield Metro Sanitary District, Palmyra Northwestern School, Springfield Pepsi, Brandt Consolidated, Prairie Capital Convention Center remodel.	



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5	<b>Mike Williams Plumbing and Heating</b> 2403 South Grand Ave. East Springfield IL 62703	217-753-4545 217-753=4548 mikewilliams.net csr1@mikewilliams.net	40	Lewis Williams	HVAC, Heating, Air Conditioning and Plumbing	Residential Service & Repair & Pre-Season Maintenance Tune-up.	1976
6	<b>Doyle Plumbing &amp; Heating Company</b> 225 N. West St. Jacksonville IL 62650	217-243-1013 217-243=9400 teresaj@doyleph.com	30	Tom Doyle	Commercial and Industrial Plumbing, HVAC, Mechanical Piping, Specialty Boiler Work	Lincoln Land Community College, Secretary of State, Capital Development Board, Springfield Area Business District.	1921
7	<b>Airmasters - Commercial Mechanical Contractor</b> 1330 North Grand Ave. West Springfield IL 62702	217-522-9793 217-522=7293 theairmasters.com rmathews@theairmasters.com	29	Robert Mathews	Commercial Mechanical Contractor, HVAC/R, Sheet Metal	DDC Building Automation Controls upgrade at Park Place, Entire Refrigeration Installation at CVA-Taylorville, Sheet Metal Fabrication for St. John's Hospital, Design build and service projects at St. John's Hospital I.T. chillers.	1993
8	<b>Allied Plumbing &amp; Heating, Inc.</b> 1315 Wabash Ave. Springfield IL 62704	217-698-5500 217-698=5505 alliedpnh.com mark@alliedpnh.com	26	Mark Miller	Residential and Light Commercial Service, Replacement and Construction, Plumbing, Heating, Cooling, Ventilation, Sewer and Drain	HVAC and Plumbing in both Residential New Construction, Replacement, Service and Light Commercial New Construction, Replacement and Service.	1977
9	<b>Johnson Controls, Inc.</b> 4231 Westgate Drive Springfield IL 62711	217-793-8858 217-793=8759 johnsoncontrols.com	25	Corporate Owned	Commercial HVAC, Fire Security, Light Residential	University of Illinois - Champaign Post Genomic Institute, SIU School of Medicine Labs.	1885
10	<b>Aire Serv / HRI</b> 560 North St. Springfield IL 62704	217-523-8594 217-243=7002 aireserv.com/cil aireserv@as-hri.com	20	Chris Williams, Jennifer Williams	Residential, commercial, and industrial service. Maintenance and installation of HVAC equipment and ductwork. Indoor Air Quality, including duct cleaning. Commercial kitchen and refrigeration, including ice machines, coolers, and freezers. Chillers, boilers, and Geothermal	Cargill, Jacksonville High School, Casey's General Stores, Multiple local banks and restaurants. Multiple Residential projects.	1985
11	<b>Tom's Heating, Air Conditioning &amp; Plumbing, Inc.</b> 2809 N. Dirksen Parkway Springfield IL 62702	217-525-8667 217-525=5926 tomsheatingandair.com tomshtg@sbcglobal.net	13	Tom Garmers	Plumbing & HVAC repairs and service and retail sales. Light commercial and residential.	Habitat for Humanity homes, Cameron Smith & Assoc., various new home construction, plumbing remodels, in-floor heating systems, geothermal, boilers, HVAC replacements.	1982
12	<b>Brennan Heating &amp; Air Conditioning</b> 619 E. Morton St. Jacksonville IL 62650	217-245-7181 217-245=0352 brennansheetmetal.com tinman95@mchsi.com	11	Chris Cisne	Residential and Commercial HVAC Installations, replacement and service, Industrial Fabrication	Nestle, Reynolds Consumer Products, Specialty Stainless Steel fabrication, Residential and commercial HVAC projects	1942
13	<b>Central Illinois York, Inc.</b> 1210 E. Laurel Springfield IL 62703	217-522-3371 217-522=1341 centralilyork.com york321@aol.com	10	Frank Cole	Commercial, Industrial, Residential, Heating, AC, Ventilation, Sheet Metal	Midwest Technical Institute, Andrews Engineering, Kerasotes Theaters - Parkway Pointe; Midwest Technical Institute Peoria; Eagles Club, Riverton; Holiday Inn, Baton Rouge, Maryville Manor; City of Salem, Ill.; Staab Funeral Home; Kohls Department Stores.	1940



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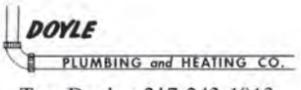
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 Tom Doyle • 217-243-1013	 Chad Fricke • 217-528-4081



Demolition at the intersection of Eighth and Carpenter.

PHOTOS BY STACIE LEWIS

# New construction booming in medical district

By Rhonda Buckhold

The sounds of heavy construction and the rapidly changing landscape are a testament to the growth of the health care industry in Springfield. Carpenter Street, the main artery of the medical district, is the most visible area of in-process new construction. The district

covers approximately one square mile, bordered by Madison Street, 11th Street, North Grand Ave. and Walnut Street.

O'Shea Builders is the most prevalent contracting company in the area. They have a small office with a large sign located within

the district at the corner of N. Rutledge and Carpenter Street. Bridget Ingebrigtsen, the marketing director for O'Shea Builders, proudly states, "SIU, St. John's and Memorial are all our clients." One of their many current projects is a large structure on the corner of Fifth and Carpenter Streets which will be an expansion for the SIU Center for Family Medicine.

The new construction project will double the size of the existing building, located at 420 N. Fourth St. The additional 30,000 square feet of space is fully funded and designed to meet the growing demand for medical care.

"Thanks to the Affordable Care Act and the Center for Family Medicine's designation as a Federally Qualified Health Center, more patients are able to find health care at SIU Center for Family Medicine. But the space available to see those patients has remained the same," says Karen Carlson, the director of the office of public affairs at SIU School of Medicine. The expansion will provide the additional needed space. The expansion is expected to facilitate 70,000 patient visits a year. The completion of the new building is set for fall of 2016 with renovations to the current building due the following year.

While SIU has the most noticeable new construction at present, Hospital Sisters Health Systems (HS) St. John's Hospital is currently altering large portions of the landscape as they prepare to start several new construction projects. The former Salvation Army building at the corner of Sixth and Carpenter along with the large brick building across from St. John's (on the corner of Eighth and Carpenter) have recently been torn down.

A zoning petition has been filed with the city of Springfield to make both areas parking lots once the rubble is cleared, according to Catie Sheehan, director of communications at HSHS St. John's, which already owns and maintains several parking areas across from and around the main hospital complex. However, when the new parking areas are complete they will encompass the entire blocks from Sixth to Seventh and Carpenter to Reynolds Streets, as well as Eighth to Ninth from Carpenter to Miller.

With the exception of one small building on each lot, St. John's houses its medical records information office on the corner of

Ninth and Carpenter. A small, cream-colored brick building owned by St. John's will divide the old parking lot on the corner of Sixth and Reynolds from the new surface but on the corner of Sixth and Carpenter.

Several of the medical district's inhabitants are dismayed at the recent announcement for the new construction plans to include two new surface area parking lots. The Illinois Medical District Commission's master plan shunned the idea of surface parking areas in the neighborhood. The publication, available at <http://www.imdc.org/about/reports/imd-master-plan>, was the result of a collaborative effort along the state of Illinois, Capital Development Board, CWLP, Memorial Medical Center, St. John's Hospital, SIU School of Medicine, Enos Park Neighborhood Association, Oak Ridge Neighborhood Association, Downtown Springfield, Inc., and Save Old Springfield. These organizations agreed upon the design and development for structured growth of the medical district based on a series of citizen gatherings where stakeholders and interested parties were able to vote on their preferences for appearance and use of the designated areas.

The master plan left no question of the general consensus in regard to exposed surface area parking lots. According to the publication, "parking lots are unfriendly, unsightly, and not conducive to promoting pedestrian traffic in the area." This theme prevailed, especially when it came to the recommendations for use of land at Carpenter Street. The structures were to be multi-level buildings, housing storefronts and loft apartments for student and medical employee housing. The first floor coffee shops and eateries would hide the parking lots from view, thus making the formerly blighted part of the city more vibrant and continuing on the path to future economic growth of the surrounding historic neighborhoods.

St. John's does maintain that the parking lots may be only temporary. Sheehan explains that "it also allows for possible campus expansion in the future. We intend to use that lot (8th and Carpenter) for St. John's College of Nursing, which experiences continual growth."

"In the near future, we are investing a substantial amount of money on some major projects," said Chris Campbell, VP and strategy

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officer of the HSHS Central Illinois Division. "HSHS St. John's Hospital and Southern Illinois University School of Medicine are partnering to develop a new medical office building along Ninth Street to care for women and children, pending regulatory approvals."

St. John's medical office building is set to begin construction this year with completion in 2017, which will result in the removal of most of the parking lots currently on Ninth Street. This will be an expansion of the Carol Jo Vecchie Women and Children's Center at 415 N. Ninth. The expansion is rumored to include a skywalk, making a safer crossing for pedestrians on the busy thoroughfare of Ninth Street.

O'Shea Builders plans to continue their involvement in the growing area of health care facilities. They most recently completed an expansion project for Memorial Medical Center consisting of the new patient care tower and surgery suites, as well as the Memorial Medical Center for Learning and Innovation. O'Shea was also the general contractor for Springfield Clinic First North.

On Ninth Street, Halverson Construction is currently working on the underpass project next to St. John's planned expansion site. Heavy equipment looms large throughout the medical district and some areas have a very industrial vibe. While residents and businesses in the medical district welcome the continued growth, hopefully the expansion projects will be in harmony with the ultimate vision that the various stakeholders originally outlined in the master plan. □

*Rhonda Buckhold is a freelance writer and researcher. She can be reached at MrsBuckhold@gmail.com.*



With multiple projects in the medical district, O'Shea Builders has a satellite office in the area.



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# The evolution of Springfield banking

By Eric Woods

Harold Henry has spent most of his life in the Springfield area. "It is a place where you know more people," he said. "It is good that we are right in the middle of St. Louis and Chicago." Henry currently belongs to the American Legion and the VFW 25th Infantry Division Association. Growing up, Henry had wanted to be in the military full time and even served in Vietnam. "I enlisted as soon as Uncle Sam called me," he said. However, Henry did not end up pursuing his military dream, instead spending the past 47 years in the banking industry.

His work life began at age 15 when he served as a camp counselor at a local Boy Scout camp. Later, he worked as a sewing machine repairman, which he identifies as the worst job he ever had to tolerate. "The company I worked for was charging people for things they shouldn't have been charging. I felt that was not right."

Henry began his banking career at the original Springfield Marine Bank in 1969, working for the Bunn family. "Back then, banks were heavily regulated. Everything was the same, from the products to the interest rates," he said. "Mr. Bunn said that the only difference between other banks

and us is the employees. How you treat your customers is what will keep you in business."

For the past 11 years, Henry has been in the commercial banking department at Town and Country Bank, working with the commercial business customers on all deposit products. Henry has watched the industry change over the last five decades, and technology has been one of the biggest aspects. "It is such a big part of every business, but especially banking. Younger people are using technology so we have to be up to date on the products offered," he said. Henry feels, though, that banking will always require that personal touch, as customers will need employees to talk to. Town and Country Bank recently acquired Premier Bank of Jacksonville, which also has branches in Waverly and White Hall and operates as The EDGE BANK in Edwardsville. "This acquisition is an exciting opportunity for both banks," Henry says.

People seeking a career in the banking industry must be willing to move with and adapt to the changes that occur, according to Henry. "Banking has been a changing industry for years," he said. "Find a mentor in any area you are working, learn as much

as you can, and find out why they are in the positions they are in today."

Henry has enjoyed his years in banking and is proud of what he has learned. "I have worked for some fabulous and bright people," he said. "I got to work for two family-owned banks in Springfield – the old Springfield Marine Bank and Town and Country Bank. Both the Bunns and the Kirschners have been major influences in my career." Henry also credits his earning the Eagle Scout ranking in helping him, as he was given the opportunity to meet numerous people who later became influential businesspeople in Springfield.

Within the next 10 years, Henry expects to be fully retired. He has scaled back to working only three days a week but still enjoys what he is doing. "I like the opportunity to have some time off but still have that connection with the customers at the bank," he said. Henry and his wife love to travel, and once he does finally retire he feels they will continue traveling. "We just got back from an Alaskan cruise and it was wonderful." □

Connect with Eric Woods at [ericw93@aol.com](mailto:ericw93@aol.com).



PHOTO BY MARANDA POTTERF

## Harold Henry

**Title:** VP and Commercial Development Officer, Town and Country Bank  
**Location:** Springfield  
**Education:** Feitshans High School  
**Family:** Wife – Jane; Children – Harold, Rebecca, Kimberley, and Ryan; four grandchildren

### Favorites –

**Movie:** *Jersey Boys*  
**Author:** Stuart Woods  
**Sports team:** St. Louis Cardinals

### Tidbits –

Vietnam War veteran  
 Avid traveler  
 Wants to go ziplining someday



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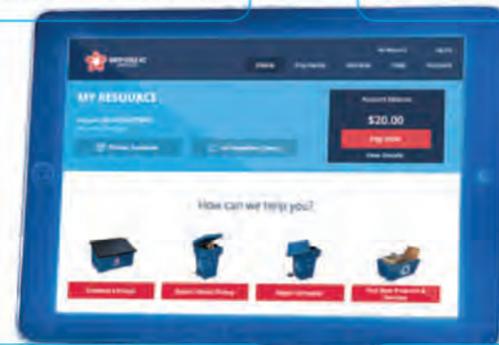
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**The Greater Springfield Chamber Job Fair arrives April 7**

The Greater Springfield Chamber Job Fair will be holding their first career fair of 2016 on Thursday, April 7 at the Wyndham City Centre Hotel from 3-6 p.m. Over 600 job seekers traditionally attend the fair, which allows companies the opportunity to screen many individuals in a short period of time. Last year's career fairs had more than 50 employers participating from the central Illinois area. Company representatives are continually impressed with the professionalism and high quality job seekers that attend The Chamber job fairs.

The Greater Springfield Chamber Job Fair is held twice a year, one fair is held in the spring and one in the fall. This year's fall job fair is on August 30 at The Crowne Plaza from 3-6 p.m. Please contact Sarah Graham at 217-525-1173 if you need more information or would like to participate in the spring fair.

**CMT announces retirement of two long-term employees**



Dale Draughan

Two individuals with over 70 combined years of service recently retired from Crawford, Murphy & Tilly's (CMT). Dale Draughan served as a senior technician in CMT's Springfield aviation group for 45 years. Allen Oertel, PE, served as a geologist and project manager in the firm's Springfield civil & site group for 26 years. CMT would like to thank Draughan and Oertel for their decades of loyal service, and the talents and expertise they contributed on numerous projects over the years.



Allen Oertel

**King Technology certified as female-owned business**

M. Kay King, president and CEO of King Technology, Inc. has announced that her company has been certified by the Illinois Department of Central Management Services as a female-owned business under the Business Enterprise Program (BEP). King, majority owner of King Technology, has also received the National Women's Business Enterprise Certification (NWBEC) from the Women's Business Enterprise National Council. These certifications increase economic opportunities for KingTech and partnering



**Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Illinois Red Tie and Pearls Gala**

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Illinois (RMHCCI) is celebrating 30 years of keeping families close with a Red Tie and Pearls Gala at the Crowne Plaza Hotel on Friday, Feb. 5. Presenting sponsor of the event is St. John's Children's Hospital with Red Tie sponsor Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois. Media sponsors include Neuhoff Media Springfield, WICS Newschannel 20 and FOX 55/27 Illinois.

The gala celebration will include a gourmet dinner, live entertainment by Naughty and Nice, and electronic bidding for both the silent and live auction portions of the evening. RMHCCI will honor MaryBeth Miller, who is the current Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) nurse manager at St. John's Children's Hospital (SJCH), and has been at SJCH since the House opened its doors in 1986. Dr. Beau Batton, chief of neonatology at SIU School of Medicine and medical director of Neonatology and Newborn Services at SJCH, will present the award to Miller. Other special guests will include the

Alsop-Jones Family, who stayed at the Ronald McDonald House in Springfield for nine months while their daughter, Lyndie, was in the NICU at SJCH.

Tickets to the gala are \$100 per person or \$900 for a table of 10, and the deadline to purchase tickets is Jan. 22. Guests are encouraged to wear red ties or pearls. All proceeds from the 30th Anniversary Red Tie and Pearls Gala celebration will directly benefit the families and children of those staying at the Ronald McDonald House in Springfield. The fundraising goal of the event is \$100,000 to serve central Illinois families and provide a place for them to stay free of charge when their child is critically ill.

The 30th Anniversary Gala would not be possible without the help of the gala committee, comprised of leaders and professionals in the Springfield community. Cheri Plummer and Melissa Skinner-Liberman serve as co-chairs of the committee and committee members include Jamie Baird, Heather Barnhart, Dr. Angie Batton, Barrie Blough, Suzanne Borland, Katie Cripe, Greg Davis, Laura Davis, Mark Denzler, Kevin Frontone, Revella Kasprzyk, Cayla Keyes, Johanna Moll, Vasanta Mushunuri, Brian Replogle, Melanie Stivers, Kelly Thompson, MT Vann, Evan Westlake and Katy Winnett.

For more information, please visit [www.rmhc-centralillinois.org](http://www.rmhc-centralillinois.org).

businesses seeking to contract with both the state of Illinois and the federal government. For more than 20 years, KingTech has specialized in transforming outdated paper-based business processes into streamlined, customized, web-based central filing systems.

**Business growth seminar scheduled at Coterra**

For business owners looking to grow a two to four year old business, an upcoming event will provide tips to continue working your way up and how to avoid pitfalls. Topics include developing a long-range strategic plan, how to hire and manage your first employees, what to look for when you're ready to relocate, accounting/payroll, new non-traditional funding, and how to increase your branding and marketing. Speaker presentations will be followed by Q&A. The event will be on Tuesday, Feb. 2, 12-1 p.m.; doors open at 11:30 a.m. Coterra is located in the Kersotes Building, 104 N. Sixth Street, 3rd floor. Speakers will include Valerie Ross, branch manager, US

Small Business Administration; and Kevin Lust, director, Lincoln Land Community College Small Business Development Center. Although the program is geared towards businesses two to four years old, though anyone can attend. Tickets are \$12 (including lunch), and are available online via [coterraworks.com](http://coterraworks.com), or through their Facebook page, /coterraworks. Only 20 spaces are available.

**Habitat for Humanity elects new officers and board members**

Habitat for Humanity of Sangamon County has announced the election of new officers and board members for 2016. Newly elected board members include Amy Byers of Springfield Electric; Phil Martin of Martin Engineering; Jim Reitz of Chatham Presbyterian Church, and Clarissa Williams of the State Journal-Register. Tim Schroeder, Hanson Professional Services, was elected to replace Corbin Doss, who transferred out of state. Elected officers for 2016 include Jerry Schwartz (community volunteer), chair; Denise Edmiston of

Wells Fargo Mortgage, vice chair; Paul Kiel of McGladrey, treasurer; Jason Vincent of Delano Law Office, secretary; and Joe Neubauer of Lowe's, past chair. Returning board members include Zach Bromley of Wells Fargo Advisors; Phil Chiles of The Real Estate Group; Mike Gillespie of Marine Bank; Ed Hohenstein, retired, of Levi, Ray & Shoup, Inc.; Julie Krehbiel of Sikich; Steve Ludwig of O'Shea Builders; LeGrand Malany (community volunteer); James Schackman of the Springfield Park District; Doug Sutton (retired) of Sutton Siding; and Sandy Walters of Capitol Strategies. Habitat for Humanity is currently preparing for the 2016 build season. For more information or to join the efforts to eliminate poverty housing, visit [www.habitatsangamon.com](http://www.habitatsangamon.com) or call 523-2710.

**FWAI Architects, Inc. hires new office manager**



Samantha Nowicki

Samantha Nowicki has joined FWAI Architects, Inc. as the new office manager. She graduated summa cum laude, amongst several other high honors, from Robert Morris University with a bachelor's in Business Administration.

**Park District Board of Trustees accepting letters of interest for vacant park board seat**

The Springfield Park District Board of Trustees is accepting letters of interest until February 3, 2016 for appointment to the office of Springfield Park District Board of Trustees to fill a vacancy created when trustee Gray Noll voluntarily resigned his position after being appointed States Attorney for Morgan County. The remainder of this term will expire after the April 2017 election.

The Board of Trustees is the governing body of the Springfield Park District, responsible for setting policies, budgets and hiring the executive director. The Board holds two regular monthly meetings, with special meetings as needed. Board members serve a four year term, without pay. Potential candidates must meet all statutory eligibility requirements of the office as described in the Illinois Park District Code section 70 ILCS 1205/2-11.

Interested candidates should submit a letter of interest indicating the reason they wish to serve as trustee and include a resume as well. For additional information contact executive director Derek Harms: [dharms@springfieldparks.org](mailto:dharms@springfieldparks.org) or 217-544-1751 ext. 1000. □

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**Casa Real  
Cocina Mexicana**

By Thomas C. Pavlik, Jr.

I'm a big fan of Casa Real on North Grand Avenue, so I was excited when I heard that it was opening a second location in the former Ginger Asian Bistro at Wabash and West White Oaks Drive. On the other hand, I was also a bit nervous – was Casa Real risking diluting its quality by spreading itself thin with such a large second location? As it turns out I had nothing to worry about as Casa Real has actually elevated its game at the new location.

Over the last few months, I've witnessed the significant transformation of the new restaurant's exterior – it now resembles our collective mental image of a hacienda. But it wasn't until I walked through the door that I realized just how much work the owners put into the transformation. Everything works – from the wagon wheel chandelier in the front entrance to the replica of a small-town Mexican square in the main dining room. This attractive space includes separate banquet rooms that can double as an extension of the main dining area and a large bar with plenty of booth seating.

I've tried to have dinner at the new Casa Real on several occasions but declined to wait an hour for a table. The day my guests and I visited (a Friday) the parking lot was full and I was worried there would be a wait for lunch. Thankfully, seating was available, and we opted for the bar area.

After being seated, I began to worry that the staff wasn't up to par given that we had to wait a bit to get our menus and chips and salsa. That glitch aside, service thereafter was excellent.

Fellow diners included a fair amount of the west side business crowd interspersed with groups starting the weekend out early while knocking back some margaritas with their lunches.

Casa Real's menu is quite expansive and includes a huge variety of drink specials. It being a work day, we opted to focus elsewhere. The menu features a separate lunch section, which includes four "express lunches" for \$6.99 and several other diminutive versions of dinner entrées. Hankering for breakfast? You're in luck, as a variety of breakfast specials are

available until 3 p.m., along with a lunch-sized portion of fajitas (\$10.49). Casa Real's dinner entrées are also available at lunch. But the best parts of Casa Real's menu are the dishes you don't usually see in Springfield, like ceviche (citrus cooked seafood - \$13.99), the various incarnations of pibil (slow-roasted pork in citrus and annatto - \$12.99 to \$14.99), the stone bowls (filled with a variety of proteins, accompaniments and grilled cactus - \$21.99 to \$22.99) and one of my all-time favorites, tortilla soup (\$7.99).

One of my guests had been to Casa Real before and therefore decided (since he wasn't paying) to start out with the table-side guacamole (\$8.99). Served from an impressive cart laden with avocados, limes and various fixings, this dish (served in a lava rock container) was a pure delight and among the best guacamoles I've had anywhere. Paired with Casa Real's homemade tortilla chips, the dish didn't last long.

As entrées, we opted for the dinner portion of carne asada (skirt steak with green onions and rice/beans - \$17.99), the tacos al pastor (four tacos, corn tortilla and marinated pork with grilled pineapple - \$13.99), and the luncheon combination of a chile relleno and beef taco (with beans, \$7.99).

While waiting for our food, we managed to demolish some additional chips with Casa Real's tasty salsa. Although a bit too sweet for my taste, it was a crowd pleaser. We appreciated that our server brought us a side of cilantro to

give it some extra punch.

Thankfully, unlike so many other local restaurants, our entrées came out at the same time and were all piping hot. The tacos al pastor was a hit, with the pineapple not overpowering the succulent pork. I managed to swipe a bite when my guest wasn't looking, and I found the corn tortilla to be fresher than any I've had in Springfield. The chile relleno was reported as crisp on the outside with gooey cheese oozing out and just the right amount of spice. The beef taco was appropriately sized with well-flavored beef, but lacked the flavor punch of the al pastor tacos.

The carne asada consisted of a very generous helping of skirt steak with a wonderful char on the outside, served on top of grilled onions and scallions. The accompanying guacamole suffered in comparison to the table-side version, but the beans and rice were a step above Casa Real's competitors.

There are a variety of desserts available, including the iconic tres leches pastry (\$6.99). As tempting as it sounded, we simply didn't have room to eat any more.

Casa Real has certainly elevated the Mexican food game in Springfield. If you don't mind running the risk of spilling some salsa on your shirt, it should be on your list for client lunches or for a place to go to get good and flavorful food in a nice atmosphere. Job well done, Casa Real. □

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



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**Springfield Clinic offers "Ask a Dietitian" seminar**

The "Doctor is In" lectures are free community seminars offered each month by Springfield Clinic. The seminars feature presentations by leading Springfield Clinic physicians and allied health professionals. The next seminar features three Springfield Clinic dietitians (Amanda Figge, Megan Klemm and Alana Scopel) answering questions and sharing tips and tricks to make the most of dinnertime. The seminar will be held Wednesday, Feb. 3, from 6:30-8 p.m. Preregister at springfieldclinic.com to receive a free gift.

**Memorial Health System's Curtis is chair-elect of Illinois Health and Hospital Association board**

Edgar J. Curtis, president and CEO of Memorial Health System in Springfield, has been elected chair-elect of the 2016 Illinois Health and Hospital Association's board of trustees. Curtis will become chair of the board in 2017. The board of trustees is the policymaking body for the association, representing more than 200 hospitals and nearly



Edgar J. Curtis

50 health systems across Illinois. Curtis is the inaugural chair-elect of the statewide Illinois Health and Hospital Association, resulting

from the recent integration of the former Illinois Hospital Association and the former Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council. The integration brings together a combined 174 years of service to Illinois hospitals and health systems. A Springfield native, Curtis received his master's degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and his bachelor of science degree from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. He is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives. Curtis serves on the boards of Memorial Health System, the BJC Collaborative LLC, VHA Mid-America, the Illinois Higher Education Commission on the Future of the Workforce and the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Nursing External Advisory Board. He is a member of the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce Q5 Leadership Council and Strategic Leadership Council.

**Simmons Cancer Institute offers four paid summer internships**

Undergraduate college students can now apply for a summer internship at Simmons Cancer Institute at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine. Four positions will be awarded to qualified undergraduate college students who plan a career in medicine or research with a focus on cancer. This is SCI's eighth summer hosting the internships. Selected interns will learn basic laboratory skills while working under the supervision of SCI faculty members. One

internship position will be offered at the SIU Carbondale campus. The remaining three will be at the School of Medicine campus in Springfield. Chris Wichterman, one of SCI's first interns, said, "Simmons Cancer Institute's internship gave me insight and experience in laboratory medical research and helped solidify my decision to pursue a career in medicine." Qualified applicants will have completed their freshman year of college by June 2016 and not have graduated from college prior to that date. Applicants should submit a current college transcript, a résumé and two letters of reference from instructors, along with a personal statement letter describing current studies, activities and future career goals. The paid internships are awarded on a competitive basis. Applications should be submitted as a single PDF and emailed to Theresa Casson at tcasson@siumed.edu. Instructors should email their reference letters directly to Theresa Casson. Deadline for receipt of all materials is March 16, 2016. Contact Theresa with any questions or for additional information at 217-545-2220.

**LLCC surgical technology program receives national recognition**

The surgical technology program at Lincoln Land Community College has received the annual merit award from the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA) for achieving a 100 percent pass rate on the Certified Surgical

Technologist (CST) examination over the past year. This is the first year the LLCC program, which began in 2012, was eligible to be recognized. "Accreditation standards require that 70 percent of students pass the exam on the first attempt, and the national pass rate is 69.8 percent, so we are quite pleased with our 100 percent pass rate," said Janice Lovekamp, director of the LLCC surgical technology program. Graduates obtaining national certification as a surgical technologist demonstrate, by examination, understanding of the basic competencies for safe patient care in the operating room. The CST is widely recognized as the foremost credential for surgical technologists in the nation and is required for employment in many health care organizations. LLCC's five-semester program prepares students for a career as a surgical technologist, working in operating rooms, delivery rooms, ambulatory care centers, physician offices and central sterilizing departments. The program is taught on the LLCC campus in a simulated operating room and classroom, as well as at local clinical sites. Admission to the program is limited, with attendance at a mandatory information session the first step. The next information session will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 16, at 5:30 p.m. in Montgomery Hall on the LLCC campus. Preregistration is not required. At the session, prospective students will learn about surgical technology as a career; admission, program and clinical requirements; and general course advising. □

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# Working together to improve the development process

By Chris Hembrough, President & CEO, The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce with the assistance of members on the Development Policy Council



Chris Hembrough

PHOTO BY TERRY FARMER

The Quantum Growth Partnership (Q5) started nine years ago as a public-private partnership to enhance economic development in the region. As part of the efforts, Q5 leaders created the Development Policy Council (DPC), also a public-private partnership that includes representatives from the city of Springfield; Sangamon County; the Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission (SSCRPC); Springfield Metro Sanitary District; Capital Area Realtors; the Springfield Area Homebuilders Association; developers; engineers; labor; bankers and other stakeholders in local development.

One of the main initiatives is to assist in the improvement of local development policies, specifically in Springfield. While it is easier to identify problems as opposed to implementing solutions, the public and private sectors have worked together over the past nine years to improve the development process. This includes successfully making changes to three Springfield ordinances.

The first ordinance improved the electric and water installation fees system for residential developments. The city of Springfield and its CWLP division approached the DPC with the problem

regarding the process for assessing electric and water installation fees. At that time, developers were not provided with the cost of this going into a project. CWLP led the effort to fix the problem, proposing a system that allowed a developer and their engineers to easily calculate the cost of electric and water installation fees before submitting a project. Additionally, we worked together to incorporate an annual increase in the installation fees so it rises with the consumer price index. This eliminates any “sticker shock” when the fees need to be increased based on increases in wages and material. The end result is more cost security for the city of Springfield, CWLP and developers.

With the second ordinance, the DPC worked with the city of Springfield, the SSCRPC and representatives of the development community through an “agreed bill process,” streamlining Springfield’s land subdivision ordinance. From this effort, changes to the ordinance included:

- Front-loading the development process so that city council reviews a proposed development plan and makes its determination before a developer spends significant amounts of money on

engineering. This changed from reviewing the plan at the final stages where these monies could not be recouped if the plan was not approved. The change also assists neighbors. It includes a required notification process, similar to a zoning change, where a sign is posted on the property and a notice is listed in the newspaper, giving neighbors an opportunity to weigh in on a project.

- A two-step process for large scale development projects, similar to the one mentioned above, that front-loads project review and decision making, again creating additional certainty for developers.

- Providing written comments to developers and their representatives from the reviewing agencies and creating simultaneous submissions for location sketch maps and preliminary plans.

The third ordinance resulted in the updating of Springfield’s arterial roadway network plan for the first time in 17 years. While this might not sound as important as the previous two changes, the implications of this are substantial when one considers that the network plan is part of the “developers agreement” that allocates a portion of necessary road improvement costs to developments.

While the public and private sectors have worked together to improve Springfield’s development process, the members of the DPC acknowledge there is more to do. The DPC hopes to make additional technical improvements to the land subdivision ordinance, and replace the “developer’s agreement” with a system that enhances the roadway network that is better for both the city and the development community. Fixing this problem is made extremely difficult due to state law that limits the ability for communities to implement policies that address how new development pays for infrastructure improvements outside of the development.

There are additional administrative and management items the city is working on to improve the development process. The Department of Public Works is working on placing the Springfield zoning maps online in order to provide the development community better access to zoning information. Such a system already exists for the county’s jurisdiction. Public Works is also drafting a checklist that developers, engineers and builders can utilize to ensure all the necessary information for a project is submitted together. It will assist in making the review process more efficient. This checklist was the highest ranking response when we surveyed the development community about changes they believed would improve the development process in Springfield. Lastly, we believe the city is taking proactive steps to improve the building permit process and are encouraged by their willingness to discuss proposals that will improve this process.

The development process in Springfield has improved over the past several years, thanks to the work of the DPC. We continually review processes and policies to ensure the promotion of development is ongoing. We encourage anyone with feedback or suggestions to contact our office. □



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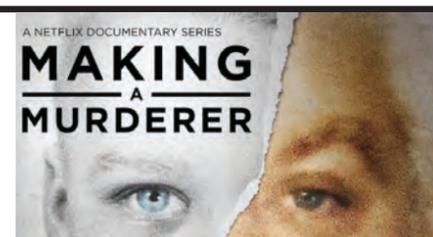
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# Lessons from "Making a Murderer"

By Thomas C. Pavlik



It seems that everyone's talking about "Making a Murderer," the hit Netflix documentary series. And, as a lawyer, it seems that everyone wants to talk to me about it. My first response is that the show is a walking advertisement for my number one rule: don't talk to the police without a lawyer present. But beyond this simple advice, there's a lot more you should keep in mind in the event you're ever arrested. We may hope that it will never happen, but it's always best to prepare for the worst.

Whether actually guilty or not, everyone has certain rights when arrested. It's the government's responsibility to prove its case against you. You don't have to help them in their work. Knowing and exercising your rights is one of the most important things you can do to ensure everyone plays by the rules if you are arrested.

First, a cautionary word: don't resist – and be polite.

Next, as I am sure everyone has seen on TV or in the movies, the United States Supreme Court has held that we have four basic rights when questioned by the police while in custody. First, you have the right to not answer any questions. Second, you have the right to be advised that if you do speak, anything you say can be used against you in court. Third, if you do begin answering questions you have the right to stop at any time and all questioning must cease. Fourth, you have the right to a lawyer and to have your lawyer present during any questioning. If you can't afford a lawyer, one

will be appointed for you by the court before questioning can begin. These are known as the "Miranda warnings."

It's easy to be intimidated if arrested or stopped by the police. Don't be. Stay calm, take a deep breath and remember that you've been arrested for a reason – the police think you are guilty. Exercise the rights given you even before you are read your rights. For example, even if you think you are going to say something helpful, it may come back to haunt you. And, as you may have seen in "Making a Murderer," it's okay for the police to mislead you and provide you with fake facts in an attempt to get you to say something incriminating. Again – all the more reason to remain silent and to demand a lawyer.

What actually happens once you are arrested? First, you will be taken to jail. The police are required to inform you, generally, as to why you have been arrested. After being booked (think of the proverbial mug shot and fingerprints), you are entitled to the use of a phone to call a family member or your lawyer if s/he has not already been contacted. The police can, generally, take samples of your hair and blood. They can require you to provide handwriting samples or to speak phrases associated with the crime with which you are being charged. You can also be required to participate in a lineup. If you haven't yet contacted your lawyer, demand that s/he be present for such events. Your counsel's participation may result in a more favorable lineup.

In some instances, a lawyer may be able to arrange for bail. Without a lawyer's assistance, it's likely that you will have to wait for the court's next setting to request bail. In Sangamon County that means if you are arrested Friday night you might have to wait until mid-day Sunday before you can ask that bail be set.

If you are arrested, the police are entitled to conduct limited searches without a warrant. They can search the immediate area of the arrest. During that search, they can seize any contraband, stolen property or other evidence of the crime that is in "plain view" from the areas where the police have a right to be. If arrested while driving a car, the officers can perform a search of the car for the purpose of discovering weapons that might be used against them. Of course, if any other evidence or contraband is discovered during this so-called "search incident to arrest," it can be used against you.

If you've been arrested pursuant to a warrant, you are entitled to see that warrant. Obviously, check the warrant to see if it's a case of mistaken identity. Of course, not all arrests involve a warrant. For example, if you commit a crime in the presence of the police, or if they have credible evidence that a crime has been committed and there's a risk of flight, an arrest would be proper.

Not all contacts with the police will necessarily lead to arrest. The police are entitled to temporarily detain you if there is a "reasonable suspicion" that you have been

involved in criminal activity. In that event, you may be asked to identify yourself and to explain your presence at a particular time. During this temporary detention the police can conduct a limited "pat down" for the purpose of detecting weapons if they have reasonable grounds to believe that you are armed or may be dangerous. Significantly, you aren't entitled to the Miranda warnings during such temporary detentions. Nonetheless, you still have all of those rights – including the right to remain silent.

In summary, if arrested, your safest course is to tell the police only the following:

1. I want to speak to a lawyer.
2. I invoke all of my constitutional rights.
3. I want to remain silent and do not want to answer questions or to speak with you.
4. I do not consent to any search of my person, my property or any other place. If such a search is conducted, I want my lawyer to be present.
5. I want my lawyer present during any identification process.

There may be instances where it's in your best interests to speak to the police or to act contrary to some of these suggestions. However, it's best to leave that decision to a qualified attorney who can review all of the facts. Ignore this advice, and you may find yourself starring in your own documentary on Netflix. □

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

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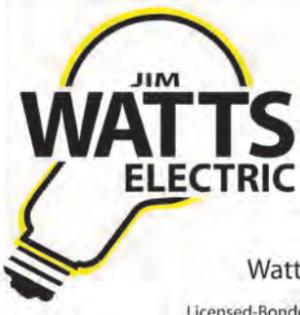
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# Father-daughter team treasures common bond



From a young age, Bennie Strumpher had a passion for coins.

"I became interested in them when I was about 10 years old," he said. "My dad worked at a coal mine and he came home with a sock full of coins – they paid him in silver dollars. So he laid the coins out on the table. They were pretty and I fell in love with them."

From sorting through silver dollars in a bank vault as a child to traveling along the trade show circuit with his family as an adult, Strumpher's love affair with coins helped guide his life.

In 2007, he found a place for that love to take root when he bought Decatur Coin and Jewelry, a business that has been located at 104 N. Main St. in downtown Decatur since

1972.

Bennie Strumpher wasn't the only Strumpher with an affinity for coins. His daughter, Samantha, happily followed in his footsteps.

"I went to a lot of coin shows with my dad," she said. "I'd take coins around to dealers and sell them for him. I'd leave with a box full of coins and I'd come back with a hand full of checks or cash."

"She was really little, probably 10 or 12 then," Bennie Strumpher added.

And she's been by her father's side at Decatur Coin and Jewelry since the very beginning, mostly handling the vintage costume jewelry customers bring in.

"I love being with my dad and experiencing with him daily the passion he has for this place, and that

he's helped me create, as well," she said.

Handling everything from coins, pocket watches and vintage paper money to costume, gold and silver jewelry, Bennie and Samatha believe it's their ethics and service that make their business stand out from others.

"We're a 'pay-it-forward' organization," Bennie Strumpher said. "If you have something worth a lot of money, we're going to offer you a lot of money, about 90 percent on the dollar. We have paid out over 14 million dollars to people just like you in the past few years," Strumpher said.

"We are professional numismatists and travel the coin show circuit buying investor grade coins that we seldom encounter here at the shop."

"We 'know' where the value is and many of my long term clients have become wealthy by paying for our experienced eyes. High eye appeal coins I sold just a few years ago for a couple of hundred dollars are worth thousands today," Bennie Strumpher said.

Bennie and Samantha are staying busy, enjoying their customers and enjoying their work.

"I don't have to work. I do this because I enjoy it," said Bennie Strumpher. "I could have retired a long time ago, but I've been doing this for 40 years, and I hope to keep doing it as long as my eyes and health are good."

"I love what I do," Samantha Strumpher agreed. "I love all the jewelry, and the coins, too."



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