

# Member to Member

Uniting Chamber Members

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## Chamber Update



Join us at Wednesday, April 8  
@ The Interstate Center

Showcase Floor Open (11:00 - 6:00 PM)  
The Chamber's Taste of Bloomington-Normal (11:00 - 1:00 PM)\*  
Featuring Food and drinks from area vendors!  
Block Party After Hours @ The Showcase (4:00 - 6:00 PM)

Join us for free food and drinks while you visit the Showcase! Everyone Welcome!

**MANY DOOR PRIZES AND GIVEAWAYS!!**  
**OVER 100 BOOTHS ALL IN ONE ROOM!!**  
**ADMISSION FREE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC!**

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### Free Seminar: Financing Small Businesses in Uncertain Times

It's always a challenge for entrepreneurs and small business owners to find the funds they need to start and grow their firms, but it is even more challenging in the current economic and financial situation. The EDC is cosponsoring a seminar, along with the Illinois Small Business Development Center at Illinois State University and the McLean County Chamber of Commerce on how to finance your small or start up business.

The seminar will be held from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 7th at Illinois State University's Alumni Center (1101 N. Main St, Normal), Room 118.

There is no charge to attend this seminar, but space is limited so please register in advance by contacting Cathy at the EDC office at [cathy@bnbiz.org](mailto:cathy@bnbiz.org) or by calling (309) 452-8437.

### Free Seminar: Challenges of Starting and Operating a Home Based Business

There are some real advantages to starting and running a small business out of your home, but there also are some challenges. If you are not careful, you may compromise your chance to launch, sustain and grow your home based businesses. This seminar will focus on some of the most common mistakes made by home based business owners.

The seminar, which is cosponsored by the EDC along with the Illinois Small Business Development Center at Illinois State University and the McLean County Chamber of Commerce, will be held from 8:00 to 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 8th at Illinois State University's Alumni Center (1101 N. Main St, Normal), Room 117.

There is no charge to attend, but space is limited so please register in advance with Cathy at the EDC office at [cathy@bnbiz.org](mailto:cathy@bnbiz.org) or by calling (309) 452-8437.



**WGLT | Associated Press Awards**

WGLT News Department Wins Record Number of Associated Press Awards

The Illinois Associated Press has once again honored the WGLT News Department for Journalistic Excellence with a station record nine first and second place awards. As part of the Downstate Radio category, GLT won more awards this year than any Illinois radio station outside of Chicago. The awards also expanded the number of individual GLT staff honored with every newsroom staffer winning at least one award.

WGLT won five first place awards for: Best Reporter – Willis Kern; Best Investigative Series – Charlie Schlenker; Best Spot News – Schlenker; Best Sports – Schlenker; and Best Use of Sound – Schlenker. Second place awards went to Kern in the Best Newswriter category, Laura Kennedy for Best Light Feature, Schlenker for Best Hard News Feature, and to the GLT News team of Kern, Schlenker, Kennedy, Jim Browne, and Mike McCurdy for Outstanding News Operation

The Associated Press awards will be presented at this year's Illinois News Broadcasters Association Convention in Springfield April 25. The award winning reports, along with an archive of recent stories can be heard at [www.wglt.org](http://www.wglt.org). Listeners can also subscribe to the GLT News of the Week podcast for select in-depth stories and interviews.



On March 19 & 20 the Governing Council of the Political Action Committee of the McLean County Chamber of Commerce interviewed candidates, up for election on April 7, concerning local issues. Each candidate was asked to complete a questionnaire to return to the PAC Council for review and release to the general public. (See the responses on the links contained at the bottom of this page.)

The Political Action Committee was a vision, to give the Chamber's membership a voice in local and state elections. Too long the business community of McLean County has set aside and not had their voices heard. Today, this committee provides that venue of recognition.

For the position of Mayor of Bloomington, the PAC endorses Mr. Steve Stockton. Through his leadership Steve has increased the safety of our citizens, worked to change city management, and has held taxes to a minimum.

For the position of Mayor of Normal, the PAC endorses Mr. Chris Koos. Through his leadership, Chris has undertaken a massive project within the core of his community. This project will prove to be beneficial to the businesses currently placed there and will invite new and much needed businesses, which will provide goods and services to the people of Normal.

These two individuals have consistently proven their pro-business approach to our communities. Both candidates have been a friend to the McLean County Chamber of Commerce and have reached out for our opinions on multiple issues.

The PAC also endorses these contested individuals. Mr. Steven Purcell for Ward 7 Alderman, in the City of Bloomington. For Town Council within the Town of Normal, the PAC endorses Mr. Jason Chambers and Ms. Cheryl Gaines. These individuals will continue to support business interests.

**Visit our website at [www.McleanCoChamber.org](http://www.McleanCoChamber.org) for more information or to view the responses from those candidates that responded.**

**EDC | Business Incubator Survey**

The McLean County Chamber of Commerce is participating in a local effort, led by the Economic Development Council, to assess the feasibility of a small business incubator in the Bloomington-Normal area. An incubator is an economic development program that helps small and start up business increase their chances of surviving and thriving (a national survey showed that over 80% of firms that went through an incubator are still in business). The incubator typically consists of a facility where small and start up businesses share common resources like a reception area and conference room, and where those businesses can take advantage of one-on-one business assistance as well as training, networking, and mentor relationships.

Some community leaders believe an incubator might be an important addition to the resources available to small and start up businesses in our community, but we want to know what you think. If you own a small business, or are thinking of starting one, or if you simply have an opinion about whether an incubator would be a good thing for Bloomington-Normal, please go to to <http://www.surveymethods.com/EndUser.aspx?81A5C9D788C2D6DB> and let us know your thoughts. You also can get a paper copy of this survey by contacting Cathy at the EDC office, 452-8437. Thank you in advance for letting us know what you think!

## Alzheimer's Association | Dementia Care Conference

1st Annual Greater Illinois Chapter

Dementia Care

Conference: Hope & Help - A Community  
Response

Thursday, May 14, 2009 | 8:00 a.m. - 3:30  
p.m.

@ the Interstate Center

Cost: \$35 per person

- \$10 for each additional person up to 4  
total.

Registration: To register by phone, call  
309.662.8392

A full-day conference on Alzheimer's dis-  
ease & related dementia for everyone sup-  
porting someone with memory loss, includ-  
ing family & professional caregivers. Take  
advantage of this low-cost opportunity to  
enhance your skills and knowledge about  
Alzheimer's disease and related dementia

### Schedule of Events

8:00 - 8:30 Registration & Resource Fair  
Open

8:30 - 8:45 Opening Session

8:45 - 10:00 Dr. Herman Dick Jr. MD

10:00 - 10:15 Break & Resource Fair

10:15 - 11:15 Session 1

Professional and Family breakout sessions

11:15 - 12:15 Session 2

Professional and Family breakout sessions

12:15 - 1:15 Session 3

Professional and Family breakout sessions

2:15 - 2:30 Break & Resource Fair

2:30 - 3:30 Closing Session

Spencer Johansen

## B-N YMCA | Upcoming Schedule of Events

Register NOW for YMCA Camp Chrysalis – sum-  
mer day at G.E. Park. Camp is for kids ages 4-13.  
The focus is on the YMCA mission and values  
of Caring, Honesty, Respect and Responsibil-  
ity through games, crafts, swimming, exercise,  
educational lessons, fieldtrips and so much  
more. Camp is open daily from 8am-4:30 pm  
with FREE before and after care available from  
7-8am and 4:30-6pm. Financial assistance is  
available to those who qualify.

Parents Night Out at the YMCA. Moms and  
Dads can enjoy a night out while the kids enjoy  
wholesome activities (swimming, games and a  
movie) in a safe place. Kids should bring a meal  
to eat for dinner. PNO is 5:00 – 10:00pm on the  
following Saturdays: April 18 and May 9.

SAVE THE DATE! Healthy Kids Day – Saturday,  
April 18, 2009 from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm. Join the

YMCA and community partners for a fun time  
as we promote healthy kids! Enjoy games,  
food and prizes. FREE to the community.  
Lifeguard Training, Lifeguard Instructor, CPR/  
AED for the Professional Rescuer and Review.  
Classes now through June. Call the YMCA at  
(309) 827-6233 for details.

Did you know you can dance your way to  
your fitness goals with Zumba Fitness? It's the  
hottest craze in group exercise. Classes meet  
four times a week. FREE with YMCA member-  
ship.

Remember to visit us online at [www.bnymca.org](http://www.bnymca.org)

Stop by our booth at the Twin Cities Show-  
case any time from 11:00 am – 6:00 pm on  
Wednesday, April 8 at the Interstate Center.  
See you there!

## Habitat for Humanity | Murder Mystery Dinner

Join Women Build for a fantastic night of  
entertainment and suspense! Habitat for  
Humanity of McLean County Women Build  
program will host a Murder Mystery dinner  
fundraiser on Sunday, April 5th at 6pm at the  
Chateau Conference Center. Proceeds from  
the night will benefit the 7th consecutive  
Women Build house in McLean County.

"We're Off To Kill The Wizard"

"I think we're not in Kansas, anymore, Toto. I  
think we're in criminal court. Who dunnit? The  
Tin Man, the Cowardly Lion, the Scarecrow? Or  
is it Auntie M – for Murder?"

The purchase of a ticket includes a delicious  
dinner and enjoying a murder mystery played  
out before your eyes. There will also be a silent

auction and a 50/50. Tickets must be pur-  
chased in advanced, so please call the Habitat  
office at (309) 827-3931.

### Ticket Information:

**Individual ticket \$45**

**Ticket, 2-pack \$80**

**Table pack, 8 tickets \$300**

About the production company:  
Upstage Productions is well known for their  
"killer entertainment." For over ten years they  
have been performing inter-active comedy  
murder mysteries literally all over the world.  
As the audience arrives they are assigned new  
identities for the evening – some of them  
becoming suspects in the crime. The shows  
are fast-paced and funny, half scripted and  
half improvised.

YWCA Stepping Stones sexual assault program is involved in several events throughout April that highlight the effects of sexual violence. See schedule below.

April 1 ... Hang bows at Law and Justice Center (2:30 – 5:30 pm)

Join the Stepping Stones staff and hang a teal bow in honor of sexual assault at the Law and Justice Center located in Downtown Bloomington. Bows are provided by Stepping Stones. Free and open to the public.

April 4 ... Swing Dance Workshop (2:30 – 5:30 pm)\*

Illinois State University Bowling and Billiards Activity Room, Normal

Cost: \$5 to participate. Pre-registration not required. Must have basic swing dance proficiency to participate in workshop.

April 4 ... Swing Dance and Lessons\*

7 - 8 pm Beginner Swing Lessons

8 - 11:30 pm Swing Dance

Illinois State University Bowling and Billiards Activity Room, Normal

Cost: \$8 for students, \$10 for non-students

Tickets available at the door.

For more information contact Sarah Whalen at (309) 846-0447 or slw837@aol.com.

April 4 ... Dance Showcase\*

Doors open at 6:45 pm, show at 7 pm

510 E. Washington St., Bloomington in the Attractive Alternative Auditorium

Cost: \$15. Tickets are available at the YWCA, Garlic Press and Synergy Rhythm and Dance.

Featuring local performers Sahira Zedare, USA Ballet and more.

For more information call (309) 530-7403.

\* Proceeds to benefit Stepping Stones

April 6 – 10 ... Art and Poetry Contest

Stop by the Bloomington Public Library and put your vote in for the winner of the 2009 Sexual Assault Awareness Month Art and Poetry Contest! The top 10 entries will be displayed during this week. The com-

munity is invited to vote on their favorite! Contest winner will be announced on the YWCA website after May 4th.

April 11 ... Soles of Survivors

All day event in the JCPenney wing at Eastland Mall, 1615 E. Empire St., Blm

A visual display using 106 shoes, each pair representing one client who benefited from Stepping Stones' services in 2008. Learn about the impact of sexual violence.

April 11 ... Take the Stage Against Violence (6 – 8 pm)

In front of the Aeropostale store in Eastland Mall, 1615 E. Empire St, Bloomington

Free and open to the public

Stepping Stones is partnering with the Teen Awareness Group and Bloomington Public Library to sponsor a talent show, raising awareness about the effects of sexual violence. Participants must be 13 years or older. Registration is required for talent entries. Lyrics/content must be submitted with registration.

For registration forms or more information go to [www.ywcamclean.org](http://www.ywcamclean.org) or

contact Kimberley Boyd at (309) 662-0461 ext 235 or [kboyd@ywcamclean.org](mailto:kboyd@ywcamclean.org).

April 15 ... Walking The Walk (8:00 pm and 9:00 pm)

Illinois Wesleyan University Hanson Student Center, Bloomington

Free and open to the public. Take a walk in the steps that survivors and their loved ones often take after an assault. Experience first hand the tough decisions and victim blaming that many survivors face. Counselors will be on hand to debrief in small groups or one on one.

April 29 & 30 ... All day events

Heartland Community College, 1500 W. Raab Road, Normal

## American Scholastic Association International | Host Homes Needed

Is looking for host families in the McLean county area to be host parents to high school students from overseas countries.

You can have a student in your home for one or two semesters or a full year and learn cultures and customs from these students as they attend school in your area.

These students come with their own expenses and pocket money financed through their parents and am a great blessing to the host family, as they are eager to be part of your household.

We select the students to be compatible with the host family with similar interests.

Please contact Rocco Badenhorst

by Email: [rtb4him@gmail.com](mailto:rtb4him@gmail.com)

(309)826-50

## Katie's Kids Learning Center | Ground Breaking

Katie's Kids Learning Center opened in September of 2006 at 1602 Glenbridge Rd. in Bloomington. They are announcing the building of a second location. Katie's Kids broke ground on a \$2.6 million location at 2003 Jacobssen Dr. in Normal.

A Ground Breaking Ceremony is planned for 10:30 am April 17 at the new site. With the current location serving 152 children from ages six weeks to six years old, the new location will serve 114 children. As many as 35 new jobs will be added. J D Stelle, owner of the center and President of Stelle Construction received a low interest loan from the state's Employ Illinois Program to assist in the expansion.

## Green View Nursery | April Seminars

Green View Nursery, an expert in plants and landscaping, will once again hold free seminars on Saturday mornings in April. Seminars will be held at the Normal facility, located at 1813 Industrial Park Road.

Seminars are free and open to the public. For more information call Green View's Garden Center at 309.452.9402 or visit Green View's web site at [www.greenview.com](http://www.greenview.com).

### April Seminar Schedule:

To reserve seating please call Green View at 309.452.9402.

Saturday, April 4

10am "Blossoming Trees & Shrubs for Spring"

Discover colorful trees and shrubs for your spring landscape.

Saturday, April 11

10am "Beautiful Spring Blooming Arrangements"

Learn how to create colorful arrangements with early blooming favorites.

Saturday, April 18

10am "Container Gardening for Spring Color"

Learn how to add splashes of color to your spring containers.

Saturday, April 25

10am "Tree Planting Tips & Tricks"

In honor of Arbor Day, learn how to plant a tree & take care of it for years to come.

## Lincoln College | RC for new Center for Adult Learning

Lincoln College is pleased to announce the grand-opening celebration and ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Center for Adult Learning, located at 1608 Northbrook in Normal, will be held on Tuesday, April 7 at 11:30 a.m. The event is free and open to the public.

The Center for Adult Learning is 2100 square feet and incorporates state-of-the-art classroom and meeting space in its design. It will house the college's Accelerated Bridge to Education (ABE) program – an accelerated bachelor degree program for working adults, as well as its business education and worker training programs. It is just down the street from the Normal campus on Raab Road.

When asked about the significance of the Center's opening, Associate Dean Pamela Johnston, enthused, "It is a testament to both the remarkable growth of the program and the college's ongoing commitment to this community." She continued, "We started with just 17 students in 2007. Today, we have almost 150 students enrolled in the program. In addition to the opening of the Center, we also began offering two new programs – a bachelor's degree in Health Services Administration and a certificate in Dental Services Management – this year."

"We are delighted to celebrate the growth of the

ABE program as we also mark the 30th anniversary of the Normal campus. With the expansion of the program to the Lincoln campus and the opening of the Center for Adult Learning, Lincoln College continues to be at the forefront of adult education," said Dr. A. Gigi Fansler, Executive Vice President of Lincoln College - Normal.

Students enrolled in the ABE program can earn up to 27 credit hours in a calendar year by attending 1 class - 1 night a week - for 5 weeks. Other program benefits include:

- Faculty-Professionals who are experts in their field and trained to teach using an accelerated format
- Dedicated faculty and advisors who understand the pressure of balancing work and attending college
- An academic program designed around the student, with the ability to step-in and step-out
- Professional Tutors available during the evenings and weekends
- Convenient payment plans

More information on the ABE program is available at [abe.lincolncollege.edu](http://abe.lincolncollege.edu).

SAVE THE DATE

*Lumin-essence*

**Lumin-essence Family Picnic Hog Roast**

Saturday, June 6, 2009

4:00pm - 10:00pm

Tri-Lakes Conservation & Recreation Club

2100 South Bunn Street, Bloomington, IL 61704

Questions? Email Amy Kelso at [amy.kelso@osfhealthcare.org](mailto:amy.kelso@osfhealthcare.org)



**OSF**  
HOME CARE SERVICES

Proceeds to benefit OSF Hospice

## Cardinal Fitness | Grand Opening

Cardinal Fitness announced the grand opening of its newest club in Illinois: Cardinal Fitness of Bloomington. Located at 1500 E. Empire Street in Colonial Plaza, across the street from Eastland Mall, the club officially opened its doors on March 22. Visit today to learn about the grand opening specials.

The Cardinal Fitness philosophy is simple: offer a neighborhood health facility that is clean, family-friendly, and affordable. Cardinal Fitness offers month-to-month memberships for singles, couples, and families with a one-time joining fee. Stop in to save on joining fees and to learn more about what the club has to offer. Cardinal Fitness of Bloomington features amenities such as state-of-the-art strength training and cardio equipment, personal training, and much more! Plus, members have access to over 40 locations in the Midwest!

For more information and a list of participating locations, please call (309) 663-0602 or visit [www.cardinalfitness.com](http://www.cardinalfitness.com).

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

### About Cardinal Fitness

As one of the fastest growing health clubs in the Midwest, Cardinal Fitness has over forty locations in several states. Cardinal Fitness is committed to promoting health and fitness in its local communities, and makes it easy for busy families to incorporate health and fitness into their everyday lives. A supervised kid's playroom is available at most locations for kids 6 months to 12 years old. Cardinal Fitness is known for its affordable month-to-month memberships with no long-term contracts, state-of-the-art equipment, and variety of amenities. Each location features personal training, free equipment instruction, cardio and strength equipment, free weights, and tanning (where available).

## JMC Photo and Digital Services | Special Pet Portraits

JMC Photo and Digital Services is photographing pets in April to benefit the Humane Society of Central Illinois (HSCI). Special Pet Portrait sessions are being scheduled on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3-7 p.m. all month long. A portion of the sitting fee (\$35.00) and any prints purchased will be donated to the HSCI.

The HSCI is committed to the prevention of cruelty, abuse, and neglect of animals through its adoption center, cruelty investigations, spay/neuter assistance programs and humane awareness.

"We are excited to partner with the HSCI on this

event. We photograph many families in the studio, but rarely does the family pet come along." said Ann Charback, Owner. "This event is designed to provide a reason for families to have their pet photographed while helping a very worthwhile cause at the same time."

To take full advantage of the event, Charback suggests scheduling early to reserve a spot, and packing a few toys to get the attention of the pet in the studio.

Please check out our website at: [www.jmcpds.com](http://www.jmcpds.com) for more information.