

APRIL 2026 NEWSLETTER



President's Message

Kyle Karsten

Thank you to all that participated in the Business Expo & Taste on March 21st. This was a great way to connect with the community and network with other businesses.

This month we have more opportunities to network. We hope you plan to attend our monthly luncheon on April 8th at Coz's Restaurant. If you haven't already, think about being an exhibitor or a speaker at one of our monthly luncheons. This is a great way to highlight your business with other organizations within the community.

We hope you follow the Chamber [Facebook](#) page and by now you have seen the nominations for the 2025 Chamber Awards. These are businesses that have been nominated for Outstanding Business of the Year, New Business of the Year, & Non-Profit of the Year. Additionally, we took nominations for our NExT Award - professionals under 40 years old making an impact in our community. These will be shared at our Awards Banquet this month.

Also, be sure to let any graduating seniors you know who are either Mt. Zion High School sen-

continued on [page 3](#)



We hope you will be a sponsor of the Mt. Zion Chamber of Commerce 2026 Awards Banquet. The sponsorship packages on [page 6](#) of this newsletter or at www.mtzionchamber.org/MZCCevents. The banquet is on April 23, 2026. It will be an evening celebrating our member's achievements. Email mtzionchamber@gmail.com by April 9, 2026 for sponsorships and April 16, 2026 for individual tickets at \$50 each or a Table of 8 for \$350.

UPCOMING

APRIL 8th
Luncheon
12:00-1:00

Topic
What's New at your Children's Museum of Illinois

Speaker
Rikki Parker

Location
Coz's Restaurant

Member cost \$15
RSVP by noon Tues., Apr. 7th

APRIL 10th
Online Auction Items Due

APRIL 16th
Awards Banquet
Tickets or Tables Due

APRIL 23rd
Awards Banquet
Mt. Zion Convention Center

APRIL 27th
Mix & Mingle
Stix on 36

MAY 13th
Luncheon
Mi Casa Mexican Cuisine



2025-2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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April 2026 Luncheon



Join us in the meeting room at Coz's Restaurant located at 1405 Village Parkway, Mt. Zion, IL 62549 for our luncheon on Wednesday, April 8, 2026. Registration starts at 11:30 a.m.; the luncheon, starts at 11:45 a.m. The luncheon program begins at 12 noon and ends at 1 p.m.

Rikki Parker, Executive Director of the Children's Museum of Illinois, will be our speaker. She will share how the Children's Museum of Illinois has changed over her four year tenure. From new exhibits, to programming for older children and their families, the Museum is setting a creative path forward that positions the organization as a resource in the community. As the impacts of screen-based intensive learning become more fully understood, places where families can learn and grow together through hands-on experiences become even more essential. Rikki will share how the Museum's work can address the challenges children face in navigating an increasingly digital world.

Enjoy our speaker and a great lunch catered by Coz's. Bring your business cards and network. If you have any information fliers you want to put on the luncheon tables before the luncheon begins, then be sure to pick up any remaining fliers at the end of the luncheon.

Please send your RSVP to mtzionchamber@gmail.com by noon Tuesday, April 7th or submit your reservation on our website at <https://www.mtzionchamber.org/meetings>. Be sure to send me your RSVP information with all the names of those attending from your business or organization for the Attendee List. You can pay in advance at [Event Registration - Mt. Zion Chamber of Commerce \(chamberorganizer.com\)](#); or optionally, you can still be invoiced or pay at the door.

President's Message continued from [page 1](#):

iors or a senior of an employee of one of our business or organization members about our 2026 College & Postsecondary Career Technical Scholarship Application. \$3,000 total will be awarded, and applications are due by April 6th.

Our Annual Awards Banquet will take place on April 23rd. Think about attending, being a sponsor, or making a donation for the silent auction. This year it's going to be focused on networking and highlighting our award nominees in some special ways. You can check out the newsletter for more details. It will be a great event that you don't want to miss!

As always, your Chamber is here for you, and we hope to see you at one of our many Spring events!

Respectfully,
Kyle Karsten, MZCC President & Macon
Resources Director of Development





MT. ZION
CHAMBER
of Commerce

Member
Spotlight



AOD
Hearing Aids

The Mt. Zion Chamber of Commerce loves its member businesses and wants you to learn more about them by bringing you this month's Member Spotlight – AOD Hearing Aid Center at 4837 E. Route US 36 in Decatur. Their passion is to help patient's hear better with comprehensive testing and matching patient's goals and lifestyles with the best treatment plan. Since 1987, AOD's patient-centered team has helped people reconnect with the ones they love through better hearing. Call AOD Hearing Aid Center at 217-475-1688 or visit [aodhearingaids.com](https://www.aodhearingaids.com). "Hear better, live better."



Welcome New Member



Nichole Garner owner of Capellis Studio & Spa is located at 1339 N. State Route 121 in Mt. Zion offers hair, head spa, skincare, waxing, lashes, brows, body treatments, and permanent makeup services. Visit capellisstudio.com for a complete list of services and products. Call 217.233.4233 for an appointment today.

Announcements

2026 MZCC Scholarships



Each year the Mt. Zion Chamber of Commerce awards scholarships. If you have a high school graduate this year, share the scholarship application in this newsletter. Any employee's seniors of any of our member businesses or organizations may apply. Your graduating high school senior either needs to be a Mt. Zion High School student; or if attending another high school, they must be the child of a Mt. Zion Chamber of Commerce dues-paying member. The scholarship can be for any major after graduating from high school. See the criteria on [page 8](#) and our website at <https://www.mtzionchamber.org/scholarship>. The application, official transcripts, and other required documents need to be received by April 6, 2026.

Celebrate Your Milestone in 2026



The Mt. Zion Chamber of Commerce is proud to recognize member businesses and organizations celebrating milestone anniversaries this year—whether it's 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 or more years of service and success. If your business is marking a milestone in 2026, let us know! Please submit your 2026 milestone anniversaries for your business or organization by April 6, 2026 by emailing mtzionilchamber@gmail.com your business name the and founding year. Besides celebrating the award nominees and award winners at our Awards Banquet on April 23, 2026, we will be also celebrating any our member's milestone anniversaries. Let's honor your legacy and inspire others in our community.

2026 Online Silent Auction



Please donate an auction item by emailing a photograph, title, description, and value to mtzionilchamber@gmail.com by April 10, 2026.

SAVE-THE-Date for the Annual MZCC Golf Outing



Our Annual MZCC Golf Outing will be on Monday, August 24, 2026 at the South Side Country Club.

MT. ZION CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESENTS

THE ANNUAL

Awards Banquet

REPORT & AUCTION

MT. ZION CONVENTION CENTER
1400 Mount Zion Parkway, Mt. Zion, IL 62549

THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2026
EVENT BEGINS AT 5:00 P.M.

Join Us!

An elegant evening of dining and celebrating as we recognize the achievements of businesses and individuals from our membership.

SPONSOR OPPORTUNITIES

DEADLINE
APRIL 9TH

GOLD SPONSOR | \$1,000

- ♦ One Table of 8
- ♦ **Logo on Tickets and in Program**
- ♦ Logo on All Communications: *Newsletter, Website, and Social Media*
- ♦ Facebook Ad & Email Blast to Entire Membership
- ♦ **Large Logo Displayed at Event**
*Can Possibly Provide Your Own Signage If Requested
- ♦ Company Name Recognized During Event

SILVER SPONSOR | \$500

- ♦ 4 Tickets
- ♦ Logo on Program
- ♦ Logo on All Communications: *Newsletter, Website, and Social Media*
- ♦ Facebook Ad
- ♦ Logo Displayed at Event
- ♦ Company Name Recognized During Event

BRONZE SPONSOR | \$250

- ♦ Company Name in Program
- ♦ Logo on All Communications: *Newsletter, Website, and Social Media*
- ♦ Logo Displayed at Event
- ♦ Company Name Recognized During Event

DUE DATE TO ORDER:
APRIL 16, 2026

TICKETS OR TABLES
\$50 / Ticket | \$350 Table of Eight



For Sponsorships or Tickets, Contact:
Linda Harper, Executive Director | 217-864-2526 | mtzionchamber@gmail.com



2026 College & Postsecondary Career Technical Scholarship Application \$3,000 Total to be Awarded

SUBMIT TO:

**Mt. Zion Chamber of Commerce • PO Box 84 • Mt. Zion, IL 62549
or mtzionchamber@gmail.com**

Applications Due no later than April 6, 2026

Criteria

- Must be in the current graduating class from Mt. Zion High School or if attending another high school must be the child of dues-paying Mt. Zion Chamber member. If home-schooled, you must provide proof of eligibility.
- Must provide acceptance letter from a post-secondary institution to pursue an associate or baccalaureate degree in a business-related field **or other major** or letter of acceptance from a trade school if pursuing a technical career.
- Must enroll as a full-time college student (minimum of 12 credit hours per semester) or show proof of their full-time course load or full-time apprenticeship in a trade school.
- Must submit completed application, official high school transcripts, and other required documents to the Chamber by April 6, 2026.
- Must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 (weighted scale) by the end of 7th semester.
- Must demonstrate service to the Macon County community.
- Must submit a separate page describing the service you have performed (include extra-curricular activities, church/community service, work experience, etc.).
- Must submit a separate page essay of at least 250 words describing the benefits of affiliation with the Chamber of Commerce in promoting business and business professionals.

Student Last Name _____ First _____ M.I. _____

Data Street Address _____

City State Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Post- College/Technical School _____

Secondary Anticipated Enrollment Date _____

Data Declared Major _____

*Mt. Zion Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors reserves the right to choose recipient(s) at its discretion,
and at times may choose to withhold the awarding of scholarships.*

For more information: Call 217-864-2526 or email mtzionchamber@gmail.com.



THANK YOU TO ALL SPONSORS, EXHIBITORS, AND VOLUNTEERS



RECORD HERALD NEWS

Serving the Counties of Douglas, Macon, Moultrie and Piatt
The Record Herald News is the successor to the Southern Piatt Record-Herald and the Mt. Zion Region News

Volume 136 Number 12 Wednesday, March 25, 2026 Atwood, Illinois 61913 \$2.00

2026 MT. ZION CHAMBER of COMMERCE EXPO & TASTE



The family-friendly free Expo & Taste was held this past Saturday at the Mt. Zion Convention Center featuring close to 40 local exhibitors. An Easter Egg Hunt, face painting, pictures with the Easter Bunny, food vendors, stage entertainment and activities for all ages were enjoyed by those in attendance. Taste vendors included Refreshment Services Pepsi, Co's,



GOLDEN TICKET WINNER. Dawn Head (right) was the winner of the \$250 Golden Ticket Expo game sponsored by Scott State Bank at the Mt. Zion Chamber of Commerce Expo & Taste on Saturday and she is pictured with Linda Harper, Mt. Zion Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, receiving her cash prize.



KID'S CHOICE WINNER. The Party Shop won the Kid's Choice Award sponsored by Heartland Bank this year at the Mt. Zion Expo & Taste on Saturday. Pictured is Gloria Greene working the booth.

Mt. Zion Township Senior Freeze

The Senior Freeze enrollment time has begun. The income level is \$75,000 for the year of 2026. We will be signing up the people who have not filed their application on Wednesday, April 8, 2026 from 1:00 to 3:30 PM at the Fletcher Park Recreation Center, 323 Fletcher Park Blvd., Mt. Zion, IL. Please bring your proof of income for the year 2025. You must include income for anyone living in the house. We will have personnel to help accommodate a crowd.

Over 30 basketball league

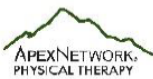
The Over 30 Basketball League runs every Wednesday now through April 29, 2026, from 8:00-10:00 pm at the ALAH High School gym. For more information call Jeremy Hale at 217/402-3351.



GOLD SPONSORS



SILVER SPONSORS



MT. ZION CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
<https://www.mtzionchamber.org>

1400 Village Parkway, Mt. Zion, IL 62549
(217)864-2526