

## AUGUST 2025 NEWSLETTER



### President's Message

Kyle Karsten

Hello everyone,

It's been a good couple of months as your president. I want to start off by thanking everyone that is getting involved to further enhance and strengthen this Chamber. Thank you to those who sold and purchased tickets for the 50/50 Independence Day Raffle. A big congratulations to our 50/50 winner, Travis Schmid, who won \$706!

As the summer starts to wind down, this is the perfect time for a "Back to School" sale or special offer to publicize your business. Let us do an e-blast to share it. Linda Harper, our Executive Director, can give you details on this. It is a minimal cost of only \$25 that could be a big return for you.

In addition to that, please take full advantage of your Chamber membership by using some of the marketing tools available to you. Some of these include: Loggin in to your Member Marketplace in our new website at [www.mtzionchamber.org](http://www.mtzionchamber.org) to post specials or announcements, attending the monthly luncheon and Chamber on the Rocks after hours gathering to network

*continued on [page 4](#)*



It's not too late to be a Hole Sponsor for \$150; email us by August 15, 2025. You can email [mtzioinilchamber@gmail.com](mailto:mtzioinilchamber@gmail.com) for a Hole Sponsorship, to register a team, send in your golfer names for your team, or donate a silent auction item for the Golf Outing. We only have room for one more team; let us know by August 15th. To donate a silent auction prize for the Golf Outing, email us by August 15th. Send golfer names for your Team of 4 by August 22nd.

### UPCOMING

**AUGUST 13**

**Luncheon**

12:00-1:00

**Location**

Fletcher Park Recreation Ctr.

**Topic**

*"Importance of CPR & How to Get Certified or Trained"*

Member cost \$15  
RSVP by Tuesday, Aug. 12th

**AUGUST 5**

**Chamber on the Rocks**

4:30-6:30 p.m. The Wharf

**AUGUST 7**

**Ribbon Cutting/Business**

**After Hours**

Mossy Oak Properties 5-7:

**SEPTEMBER 5**

**MTZ Teacher & Staff  
Appreciation Sponsorships  
& Coupons Due**

**SEPTEMBER 10**

**Picnic Luncheon**

MTZ Fletcher Park Pavilion

**OCTOBER 15**

**Mt. Zion Community  
Prayer Breakfast**

Mt. Zion Convention Center  
7-8 a.m.



## 2025-2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Kyle Karsten**  
President  
Salvation Army



**Jimmy Rade**  
Vice President  
Mossy Oak Properties



**Kayla Marsh**  
Treasurer  
Hickory Point Bank & Trust



**Laura Cullison**  
Secretary  
Evergreen Senior Living



**Ashley Botchelder**  
Mt. Zion District Library



**Trisha Beck**  
Beck Realtors, Inc.



**Ashley Hawkins**  
Prairie State Bank & Trust



**Crystal Hernandez**  
HDZ Roofing Co.



**Tim Robertson**  
Heartland Bank  
and Trust



**Linda Harper**  
Executive Director  
Mt. Zion Chamber of Commerce



**Shelly Coslow**  
Outgoing Officer Advisor  
Decatur Earthmover Credit  
Union



## August 2025 Luncheon



The August 13, 2025, luncheon will be at the Mt. Zion Fletcher Recreation Center. The cost of our luncheon is \$15 unless you have a prepaid luncheon. If you want your luncheons at a reduced price, purchase your prepaid luncheons at least a day before this August luncheon.

Jami Bennett with Safe Bet Training Solutions will be our speaker; her presentation is titled: Importance of CPR and How to Get Certified or Trained. CPR, or Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation, is a crucial life-saving technique that can be used in emergencies when someone's breathing or heartbeat has stopped. It helps maintain blood flow to the brain and other vital organs until professional medical help arrives.

Please send your RSVP to [mtzionchamber@gmail.com](mailto:mtzionchamber@gmail.com) by Tuesday, August 12th 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 so they can be included on 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.

The Any Queen 50/50 prize is up to \$86.



**Thurs., Aug. 5, 2025, 4:30-6:30 p.m.**

**Chamber on the Rocks**  
The Wharf Kitchen and Bar

Join us for Chamber on the Rocks on Tues., August 5, 2025, at The Wharf Kitchen and Bar, 201 W. 1st Street, Decatur, IL 62521 from 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Chamber on the Rocks is the perfect way to unwind and connect. It's more than just a networking event; it's where conversations spark opportunities, and every clink of a glass celebrates the spirit of our local businesses. Mark your calendars and join us for an evening of connections, conversations, and cocktails!

RSVP's encouraged but not required:  
[Chamber on the Rocks RSVP](#)





***President's Message continued from page 1:***

and share info with other members, hosting a Business After Hours, signing up for free radio ads with Member Spotlight and more, purchasing e-mail blasts for just \$25, free job listings. We are going to start highlighting these items at luncheons. Check out the membership section on the website to help remind yourself of what benefits exist as a Chamber Member.

We also have several upcoming events where you can be a Sponsor and get your business name and logo out in the community. If you are unable to Sponsor, attending these events is a great way to network with other businesses and community members. Be sure to mark these events in your calendar: Chamber Golf Outing, Mt. Zion Teacher Appreciation, Mt. Zion Community Prayer Breakfast, and the Veteran's Day Breakfast. And as always, be sure to check our website, read the newsletters, and attend the monthly luncheons to get more information on everything the Chamber offers to you and your business.

We also want to invite you to be involved with our Board Committees. Ask us about being an Ambassador. This is another way to help promote you and your business or organization.

And please, I hope it is ok to share a message with you on a personal note for me. In August, I will be changing jobs, and I can't wait to tell you more soon. I will be the new Development Director for Macon Resources – MRI here in Decatur. Wait until you hear all this organization does in our community to assist and enhance lives of those with developmental disabilities. It has been a joy to be with The Salvation Army over the last 9 years. I wish them continued blessings and encourage our community to keep finding ways to support them as their mission and programs are very important for our community.

Kyle Karsten – President



Kyle Karsten presenting Travis Schmid his \$706 check as the winner of the 2025 Mt. Zion Chamber Independence Day 50/50.



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 – HDZ Roofing Co. With over 10 years of experience, they provide honest, quality work across Central Illinois. Fully licensed, insured, and bonded, HDZ Roofing Co. specializes in roofing, siding, gutters, soffit, and fascia. Plus, they offer affordable home repairs and remodels. HDZ Roofing Co. slogan – Let Us Cover You! Call or text 217-620-8123 for a free estimate today!"

## Announcements



### Prepaid Luncheons

The 2025-2026 prepaid luncheons are available for \$150 per person for August 2025-July 2026; that is one luncheon per month for 12 months. The regular price of our luncheons is \$15, which costs \$180; our \$150 prepaid luncheons is a \$30 savings for the year or brings the price per luncheon down to \$12.50 each. If you cannot attend a luncheon that you have prepaid, you can have another employee from your business or organization use it that month. Email [mtzionchamber@gmail.com](mailto:mtzionchamber@gmail.com) by August 12, 2025 if you wish to be invoiced for prepaid luncheons.



### 2025 MZCC Membership Data Verification

If you have not already replied our email requesting you to verify or correct the member data we have for your business or organization, please do so by August 31, 2025. The verification email was sent on July 18, 2025. Your verified contact information will be used for our upcoming **Thriving Times 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition**, which will be distributed to our community, membership, and visitors to our area. All member businesses and organizations will have their business or organization name and phone numbers listed by category for FREE in **Thriving Times 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition**.



### 2025 Mt. Zion Teacher & Staff Appreciation

Information about this year's sponsorships for the gift bags we distribute to the Mt. Zion School District teachers and staff is on [page 12](#). Sponsorships due September 5, 2025.



### 2025 Mt. Zion Community Prayer Breakfast

Information about this year's annual Mt. Zion Community Prayer Breakfast on October 15, 2025 at the Mt. Zion Convention Center is on [page 11](#). Sponsorships are due on September 15, 2025. Michael Scherer will be the speaker.



### 2026 MZCC Collette Tour—Spotlight on New York City—Zoom Presentation August 11th

The trip is from June 4-8, 2026. You are invited to attend a Zoom presentation with Collette to learn more about this trip. The Zoom presentation is on August 11, 2025 at 2 p.m. To attend, register in advance by clicking on this link:

<https://collette.zoom.us/meeting/register/IJcqnChoTBWdlhzDEjmymQ>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

The down payment to hold your reservation is due by December 4, 2025. See [page 13](#) for more information.



## THRIVING TIMES MAGAZINE 2nd EDITION

The Thriving Times Magazine 2nd Edition is geared toward promoting our member businesses, the Mt. Zion Chamber, and our communities. Inside the publication all members will be listed categorically at no charge. Members can choose an 1/8 or 1/4 page ad space, and those advertisers who purchase a 1/2 or full-page advertisement will receive a 1/2 page story space at no charge.

Copies will be distributed at Chamber meetings and events, Village of Mt. Zion, Mt. Zion District Library, member hotels, member businesses, lobbies, reception areas, and mailed to each main membership contact.

**Deadline:** Friday, September 12, 2025, all advertisements, stories and contracts to CMS.

**Design:** Creative Media Services, Inc. (CMS) is partnering with the Chamber. All advertising and design services will be coordinated by CMS.

**Advertising Information:** The 1/8 page and 1/4 page advertisements will not have a free story space. The 1/2 page and Full-page purchases are eligible for a Free 1/2 page story space only.

Advertising Sizes	Dimensions (w x h)	Rates
1/8 page	3.625" x 2.3194"	\$375
1/4 page	3.625" x 4.875"	\$575
1/2 page	7.50" x 4.875"	\$775 Includes 1/2-page story Free
Full page	7.50" x 10.0"	\$975 Includes 1/2-page story Free
Inside Front & Inside Back Cover	11.25" x 8.625"	\$1275 Includes 1/2-page story Free
Back Cover	11.25" x 8.625"	\$1475 Includes 1/2-page story Free

Please make sure the ads meet these specific dimensions. Accepted file types are: ai, eps, pdf, jpg and tif. If it is raster-based file, make sure the resolution is at least 300 dpi at full dimensions.

CMS can provide design services at an additional fee and will be added to the invoice from the Chamber. If ads do not meet criteria, CMS will contact you directly to review options.

1/8 page: \$35      1/4 page: \$55      1/2 page: \$75      Full page: \$125





## THRIVING TIMES MAGAZINE 2nd EDITION ADVERTISING AGREEMENT & STORY

Yes, I would like to place an advertisement in the Thriving Times Magazine 2nd Edition sponsored by the Mt. Zion Chamber of Commerce.

Please Circle Ad Size:

1/8-page Ad (Only): \$375

1/4-page Ad (Only): \$575

1/2-page Ad & 1/2-page story: \$775

Full page Ad & 1/2-page story: \$975

Inside Front or Inside Back Cover & 1/2-page story : \$1275

Back Cover & 1/2-page story- \$1475

I will provide the ad and story (if applicable) to Creative Media Services by Friday, September 12, 2025. If design services are needed the additional fee will be added to the total amount due and payable to Mt. Zion Chamber of Commerce. Please fill out the form below based on ad size purchased.

Please print.

Business Name \_\_\_\_\_ Contact \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

If 1/2-page or full-page ad is purchased a 1/2-page story is included Free.

Word count is roughly 600-700. If a photo is included the word count should be adjusted to accommodate the space. Please include information about your business, the products or services offered that are not mentioned in the advertisement. Information could also be specific tips, general information about a trend or advice for the readers. Make it interesting.

Thank you for your support! The Thriving Times Magazine 2nd Edition will be read and used as a reference so be sure to participate in this publication.

To Place your Ad and Story Contact:

Creative Media Services, Inc. (CMS)

Carolyn Ridenour – 217-521-3265 or email

cridenour@cmsdecatur.com OR

Linda Harper – 217-864-2526

mtzionilchamber@gmail.com

Make Checks Payable to: Mt. Zion Chamber of Commerce • PO Box 84, Mt. Zion, IL 62549



Hole Sponsors and  
Teams due August 15, 2025.



South Side Country Club

11 am Registration/Lunch

**AUGUST 25, 2025**

**12 pm Shotgun Start**

### SPONSORSHIP LEVELS:

- ☐ Title Sponsor- \$2500  
Includes (2) Groups of 4 Golfers
  - ☐ Gold Sponsor- \$1000  
Includes (1) Group of 4 Golfers
  - ☐ Silver Sponsor- \$400
  - ☐ Bronze Sponsor- \$250
  - ☐ Hole Sponsor- \$150
- 
- ☐ Hole-In-One Sponsor - \$500
  - ☐ Lunch Sponsor - \$1200  
Includes (1) Group of 4 Golfers
  - ☐ Practice Green Sponsor - \$250
  - ☐ Driving Range Sponsor - \$250

*\*See Back for Descriptions\**

Sponsor Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Come tee off with us at the annual Mt. Zion Chamber of Commerce Golf Outing, this event brings our local business community together! This year, we invite you to demonstrate your company's community spirit and commitment to growth by sponsoring this esteemed event or registering a foursome to compete on the greens.

This event is more than a leisurely day on the links; it's a vital investment in the initiatives that propel our business community forward. Engage with fellow business leaders, gain invaluable exposure, and help us drive positive change in our community.

Reserve your spot today and swing into action for a better business community! Visit our website for more information on how you can make the most impact.

### GOLFERS

Please register me/us for \_\_\_\_\_ Golfers @ \$150 each. (\$600/Team)      Golf Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name

Email

Phone

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Please make Checks Payable to: **Mt. Zion Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 84, Mt. Zion, IL 62549.** If you would rather be invoiced, or would like to donate a gift certificate/basket/item, please provide the following:

**Name / Business / Address / Email / Phone**

- ☐ I would like to donate a gift certificate/basket/item from our business for prizes.

For more information visit: [mtzionchamber.org](http://mtzionchamber.org), email Chad Hatayama at [chatayama@apexnetworkpt.com](mailto:chatayama@apexnetworkpt.com) or call/text 217-791-0660



**Mossy Oak Properties**  
**Ribbon Cutting & Business After Hours**  
**August 7, 2025, 5:00-7:00 p.m.**

- Congratulate Jimmy Rade, Jeff Michalic and Chad Renbarger on their new location
- Mix, mingle, and enjoy refreshments
- Network & share your business cards



6597 US Route 36  
Decatur, IL 62521  
(217)310-2088





# Mt. Zion Community Prayer Breakfast October 15, 2025

**Sponsorship Due Date: September 15, 2025**

	<b>Gold Sponsorship \$2,000</b>	<b>Silver Sponsorship \$1,000</b>	<b>Bronze Sponsorship \$500</b>
<b>Tickets to Prayer Breakfast</b>	Two Tables of 6 with name Prominently placed as Gold Sponsor	One Table of 6 with name Prominently placed as Silver Sponsor	4 Tickets
<b>Sponsor Promotion at Prayer Breakfast</b>	Time for your Representative to Speak during program  Promotional display banner at event prior to and following event  Sponsor name announced at Breakfast	Sponsor name announced at Breakfast	Sponsor name announced at Breakfast
<b>Sponsor Inclusion in Prayer Breakfast Program</b>	Sponsor name and logo on program	Sponsor name and logo on program	Sponsor name listed on program
<b>Sponsor Inclusion in Pre-Event Advertising</b>	Sponsor name and logo on Prayer Breakfast flyers, and ads  Sponsor mention in all radio spots  Sponsor and logo on Prayer Breakfast Facebook boost	Sponsor name and logo on Prayer Breakfast flyers  Sponsor logo on Prayer Breakfast banners	
<b>Sponsor Inclusion in Chamber Media</b>	Sponsor name and logo in Chamber newsletter and website  Free business/organization ad in Chamber newsletter the month of Prayer Breakfast  Free e-mail blast of business/organization ad the month of Prayer Breakfast	Sponsor name in Chamber newsletter and website  Free e-mail blast of business/organization ad the month after Prayer Breakfast	Sponsor name in Chamber newsletter  Free business/organization ad in Chamber newsletter the month after Prayer Breakfast





## 2025 Mt. Zion Teacher & Staff Appreciation Sponsorship

The Mt. Zion Chamber of Commerce would like to show our appreciation to Mt. Zion Teachers and Staff. We want to show them that we see what they are doing and appreciate it very much.

We will be providing them with a gift bag containing: one \$10 gift certificate from a MZCC member restaurant, MZCC member coupons, and a Del's Popcorn treat. Again this year, we will randomly draw five Mt. Zion teacher names to win a free \$50 membership with Sunshine Supplies for Teachers, which allows their members to shop once a month for free supplies.

We are seeking the sponsorships below to help fund the Mt. Zion Teacher & Staff Appreciation. Here are the counts for each school building this year – which includes Teachers, Teacher's Aides & Staff.

MTZ High School	67
MTZ Junior High	32
MTZ Intermediate	48
MTZ Grade	35
MTZ McGaughey	<u>45</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>227</b>



**YES, I WOULD LOVE TO BE A SPONSOR FOR THE MTZ DISTRICT SCHOOL'S "WE APPRECIATE YOU MTZ SCHOOL DISTRICT"!**

**BUSINESS NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Sponsorships (choose one):

- ☐ \$600 Sunshine Supplies for Teachers Sponsorship: Receive recognition as the sponsor of the Sunshine Supplies for Teachers five memberships in MZCC newsletter, on the MZCC Facebook page, and on the communication to the teachers who win the free Sunshine for Teachers membership.
- ☐ \$500 Gold Sponsorship: Receive recognition on gift bags, in MZCC newsletter, and on MZCC Facebook page.
- ☐ \$250 Silver Sponsorship: Receive recognition in MZCC newsletter and on MZCC Facebook page.
- ☐ \$100 Bronze Sponsorship: Receive recognition in MZCC newsletter.

☐ **Coupons.** Check here if you also want to include a coupon in each gift bag. 227 printed coupons cut to size need to be ready to be picked up by MZCC by September 5, 2025.

Sponsorships are due by September 5, 2025. Please mail or email this form to [mtzionilchamber@gmail.com](mailto:mtzionilchamber@gmail.com), and you will be invoiced. Make your check payable to Mt. Zion Chamber of Commerce and mail to:

Mt. Zion Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 84, Mt. Zion, IL 62549



Linda Roberts  
✉ [lindarobertsbest@comcast.net](mailto:lindarobertsbest@comcast.net)  
☎ (217) 864-4666

## Spotlight on New York City

**June 4 – June 8, 2026 \* 5 Days \* 5 Meals**

From Lady Liberty to Greenwich Village, New York City never sleeps. The Apple is big; enjoy every bite. Double \$3699 per person including tour, airfare and transportation to/from the airport. Save \$50 per person if you make your deposit by 12/5/2025.



### About This Tour

Experience the best of "the Big Apple" in this spectacular tour. From Rockefeller Center to Greenwich Village, New York City is a destination that will dazzle even the most seasoned traveler. Spend four nights in the heart of Midtown close to Central Park and Times Square. Take your seat and watch the curtain rise for two exciting Broadway shows. Ferry to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. See the Empire State Building and Central Park. Visit the poignant 9/11 Museum and 9/11 Memorial. Enjoy plenty of free time to shop and explore this fabulous city on your own. Get ready to "start spreading the news!"

### Must-See Inclusions

- Embark on a voyage to experience "Lady Liberty" up-close.
- Join a local guide for a tour of New York City's time-honored landmarks.
- In the cultural treasure trove that is New York City, experience two Broadway shows of your choice.

### Cultural Connections

- Pay tribute to the lives lost during a visit to the 9/11 Memorial and the 9/11 Museum.
- Get around like a local – on your feet! The lights and energy of the Big Apple captivate as you walk NYC's bustling streets to dinner and Broadway shows.

### Culinary Inclusions

- Experience breakfast and a taste of NYC diner culture in the city's staple eateries.

More information: <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1344893>.