

AUGUST 2026 NEWSLETTER



President's Message

Laura Cullison

President's Message

Hello Everyone,

I am excited and honored to step into the role of President of the Mt. Zion Chamber of Commerce!

First, I want to thank Kyle Karsten for his service this past year as Chamber President. It was an honor to serve alongside Kyle, and I truly appreciate the leadership, time, and dedication he gave to our Chamber.

As a proud Macon County native, I care deeply about this community and the businesses that make it such a great place to live, work, and grow. I look forward to working with our Board of Directors and Chamber members as we continue supporting and strengthening our local business community. Together, we'll make your Chamber membership a valuable and rewarding experience.

I'd also like to celebrate a recent success! Thank you to everyone who purchased and sold tickets for our Independence Day 50/50 Raffle. Your support helped make it a tremendous success. Congratulations to our winner, Kieran Wolf, who took home **\$621!**

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It's not too late to be a Hole Sponsor for \$150; see [page 7](#) and let us know by August 14, 2026. Also, let us know if you want a team, send in your golfer names for your team, and/or donate a raffle item for the Golf Outing. We only have room for one or two more teams; let us know by August 17th or sooner. To donate a raffle prize for the Golf Outing, let us know by August 17th. Send golfer names for your Team of 4 by August 21st. You also can use this form to let us know: <https://www.mtzionchamber.org/golf-outing>.

UPCOMING

AUGUST 12

Luncheon

12:00-1:00

Program

"Mt. Zion IL CEO "

Exhibitor

Eagle Ridge of Decatur

Location

Antioch Christian Church

Caterer

Las Margaritas

Member cost \$15
RSVP by noon Tues., Aug. 11th

SEPTEMBER 4

**Mt. Zion Teacher & Staff
Appreciation Sponsorships
Due**

SEPTEMBER 23

**Prayer Breakfast
Sponsorships Due**

SEPTEMBER 9 PICNIC LUNCHEON

Mt. Zion Fletcher
Park Pavilion
Caterer: Crawford's
Pizza & Pub



2026-2027 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Louro Cullison
President
Evergreen Senior Living



Trisha Beck
Treasurer
Beck Realtors, Inc.



Crystal Hernandez
Secretary
HDZ Roofing Co.



Brian Beube
Heartland Bank and Trust



Shane Bracken
J.J. Swartz Co.



Angie Manns
Decatur Earthmover Credit
Union



Kayla Marsh
Hickory Point Bank & Trust



Karalee Misner
The Solvr Group



Linda Harper
Executive Director
Mt. Zion Chamber of Commerce



Ashley Batchelder
Outgoing Officer Advisor
Mt. Zion District Library



August 2026 Luncheon



Come hear Angie Clark, Facilitator of Mt. Zion IL CEO, speak at our luncheon on August 12, 2026. It will be held at the Antioch Christian Church, 5409 E. US Route 36, Decatur. Las Margaritas will be catering.

The Mt. Zion IL CEO is a local chapter of the national Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities (CEO) initiative, designed to give Mt. Zion and St. Teresa high school juniors and seniors a hands-on, immersive introduction to entrepreneurship. The Mt. Zion IL CEO Program is designed to transform how students see their futures, encouraging them to become entrepreneurial thinkers who contribute to the economic vitality of their communities. It blends education with real-world experience, helping students grow personally, professionally, and creatively.

The cost of the luncheon is \$15. Registration begins at 11:30 a.m. The buffet opens at 11:45 a.m.; and the program begins at 12 noon. Bring your business cards and network. If you have any information fliers you want to put on the luncheon tables before the luncheon begins, please do so but be sure to pick up any remaining fliers at the end.

Please send your RSVP to mtzionilchamber@gmail.com by Tuesday, August 11th 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.

Welcome New Member



Key Cannabis is a new business in Mt. Zion located at 1225 N. State Route 121. They will be opening soon. Key Cannabis is dedicated to helping every customer discover the benefits of cannabis through a carefully curated selection of high quality products designed to support wellness, relaxation, creativity, and everyday enjoyment. Whether you're seeking better sleep, natural relief, or an enhanced social experience, the team is committed to helping you find the right solution for your lifestyle.



Announcements

2026-2027 Prepaid Luncheons



The 2026-2027 prepaid luncheons are available for \$150 per person for August 2026-July 2027 for one luncheon per month for 12 months. The regular price of our luncheons is \$15, which costs \$180 for twelve months; our \$150 prepaid luncheons is a \$30 savings for the year or brings the price per luncheon down to \$12.50 each. Email mtzionilchamber@gmail.com by August 11, 2026 if you wish to be invoiced for prepaid luncheons.

New Email Address



We have a **NEW** email address for you to add to your email contact list. It is ExecDir@mtzionchamber.org. As soon as I get our email distribution lists you will start receiving email from our new email account. This is a Microsoft Outlook email account. The mtzionilchamber@gmail.com email address will remain active for a few months.

2026 MZCC Membership Data Verification



If you have not already replied my email requesting you to verify or correct the member data we have for your business or organization, please do so by August 31, 2026. The verification email was sent on July 30, 2026. Your verified contact information will be used for our upcoming **Mt. Zion Chamber Membership Directory 6th Edition**, which will be distributed to our membership and the Mt. Zion/Decatur community. All member businesses and organizations will have their business or organization's contact information listed alphabetically and by category for FREE in **Mt. Zion Chamber Membership Directory 6th Edition**.



2026 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 8](#). Sponsorships due September 4, 2026.



2026 Mt. Zion Community Prayer Breakfast

Information about this year's annual Mt. Zion Community Prayer Breakfast on October 21, 2026 at the Mt. Zion Convention Center is on [page 9](#). Sponsorships are due on September 23, 2026. Dr. Kelly Clark will be the speaker.



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

As summer winds down and students prepare to head back to school, now is the perfect time to promote your business with a back-to-school sale, special offer, or event. I encourage every member to take full advantage of the many benefits included with your Chamber membership. These resources are designed to help your business gain exposure and connect with our community.

Be sure to take advantage of:

- The Member Marketplace at www.mtzionchamber.org; login to post specials, promotions, announcements, and events.
- Monthly Chamber luncheons to network with fellow members and share business updates.
- Hosting a Business After Hours event to showcase your business.
- Complimentary Member Spotlight radio advertisements.
- Targeted Chamber email blasts for just \$25.
- Free job postings on the Chamber website.

We also have an exciting lineup of events this fall. Mark your calendars!

- **August 24** – Chamber Golf Outing
- **September 9** – Mt. Zion Teacher Appreciation
- **October 21** – Prayer Breakfast
- **November 11** – Veterans Day Breakfast

These events provide great opportunities to connect with fellow members, support our community, and highlight your business.

As always, be sure to visit our website, follow us on Facebook, read our newsletters, and attend our monthly luncheons to stay informed about everything your Chamber has to offer.

Thank you for your membership and continued support. I look forward to serving you and making this a great year for the Mt. Zion Chamber of Commerce!

Respectfully,

Laura Cullison, President
Mt. Zion Chamber of Commerce



2026 Independence Day 50/50 Winner



July Luncheon — Good Samaritan Inn



July Mix & Mingle at Charro's



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 – Plume. They are located at 144 W. Wildwood Drive, Mt. Zion. Angi Lay is the owner. Plume specializes in handcrafted bath, body, hair, and skincare products made with thoughtfully selected, skin-loving ingredients. Plume offers everything from artisan soaps and body care to facial products, shampoo and conditioner bars, and a growing botanical collection featuring herbal infusions and essential oils. Visit plume-bodyshop.com. Their Facebook page is [plumbodysshop](https://www.facebook.com/plumbodysshop).

Sign up at <https://www.mtzionchamber.org/golf-outing>

Teams due: August 17, 2026.



South Side Country Club

11am Registration/Lunch

AUGUST 24, 2026

12pm 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, or Item from our business for prizes.**

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



2026 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, and a Mt. Zion 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. We delivered 227 gift bags last year; this includes Teachers, Teacher's Aides & Staff.



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.

Sponsorships are due by September 4, 2026. Please mail or email this form to mtzionchamber@gmail.com, and you will be invoiced. Or you can mail a check and make it payable to and mail it to:

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



Mt. Zion Community Prayer Breakfast

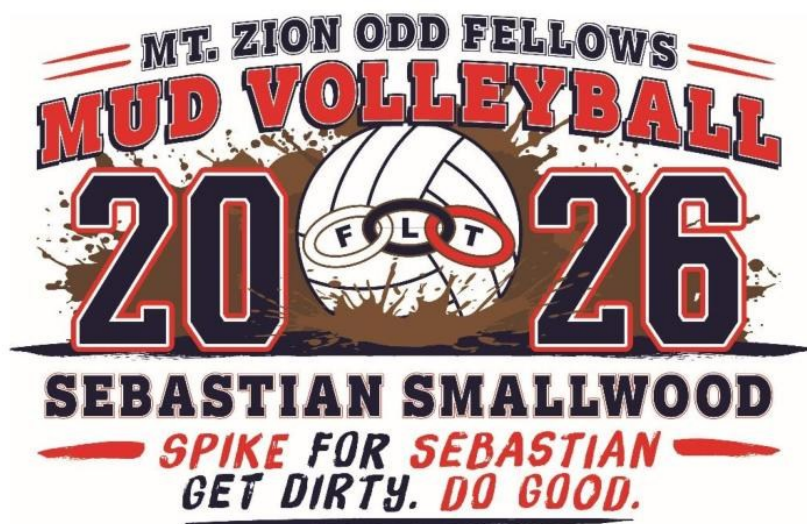
October 21, 2026

7 a.m. Mt. Zion Convention Center

Sponsorship Due Date: September 23, 2026

	Gold Sponsorship \$2,000	Silver Sponsorship \$1,000	Bronze Sponsorship \$500
Prayer Breakfast Tickets	Two Tables of 6 with name Prominently placed as Gold Sponsor	One Table of 6 with name Prominently placed as Silver Sponsor	4 Tickets
Sponsor Promotion at Prayer Breakfast	Time for your Representative to Speak during program Sponsor name announced at Breakfast	Sponsor name announced at Breakfast	Sponsor name announced at Breakfast
Sponsor Inclusion in Prayer Breakfast Program	Sponsor name and logo on program	Sponsor name and logo on program	Sponsor name listed on program
Sponsor Inclusion in Pre-Event Advertising	Sponsor name and logo on Prayer Breakfast flyers, and ads Sponsor mention in all radio spots Sponsor logo on Prayer Breakfast Facebook boost	Sponsor name and logo on Prayer Breakfast flyers Sponsor logo on Prayer Breakfast Facebook boost	
	Sponsor logo in Chamber newsletter and website	Sponsor logo in Chamber newsletter and website	Sponsor name in Chamber newsletter
Sponsor Inclusion in Post-Event	Free business/organization ad in Chamber newsletter and Facebook post	Free Facebook post of business/organization ad	Free business/organization ad in Chamber newsletter

\$150 Speaker Gift Sponsor (only one): Business name announced at breakfast.



MUD VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

at the Mt. Zion Pony Express Days

Saturday, August 15th, 2026

8:00 am Check-In / 9:00 am Start

Register by August 1st:

- \$30/person (\$35 for sizes 2XL and up)
- Event shirt included

Register between August 2nd to 12th:

- \$40/person
- No event shirt



Scan the QR code to register!

No coolers - Food and beverage will be available for purchase.

All proceeds from this year's event will go to Sebastian Smallwood, a 12-year-old 6th grader at Mt. Zion Intermediate School who is currently battling a rare brain tumor.

Event & T-shirt Sponsorship Opportunities Available

For more information and to download the team registration form, scan the QR code, go to www.mtzionoddfellows.org/mud-volleyball or contact Corey McKenzie at 217-620-2194, cjmckenzie1028@gmail.com.

