

## JULY 2026 NEWSLETTER



### President's Message

Kyle Karsten

Hello everyone,

Happy July!

Let me first wish you all a wonderful July 4th holiday. I hope to see many of you at Blue Ribbon Night on July 3rd at Fletcher Park. Look for our Chamber there, and if you haven't already, stop by, say hello, and purchase your 50/50 tickets!

As we move further into July and the summer, let's focus on opportunities to meet each other and promote our businesses and organizations. We have several exciting events planned regularly, along with opportunities you can reach out to us and arrange. We are here to help promote you to our Chamber members and community.

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### Sign Up for the Mt. Zion Golf Outing

Don't forget to sponsor and/or sign up a team of four for our 3rd Annual Mt. Zion Golf Outing on Monday, August 24, 2026 at the South Side Country Club. It is a scramble with lunch and a shot gun start at noon. Register by either emailing [mtzionilchamber@gmail.com](mailto:mtzionilchamber@gmail.com) or register using the form on our website at <https://www.mtzionchamber.org/golf-outing>. A PDF download button for a printable Registration Form and sponsorship information is on the link above and is on pages [8](#) & [9](#) of this newsletter. Please sign up for a sponsorship, and/or a foursome.

Sponsorships due July 31, 2026; sign ups of foursomes is due August 17, 2026.

### UPCOMING

**JULY 8th**

**Luncheon**

12:00-1:00

**Program**

*"Nourishing Decatur: The Good Samaritan Inn's Mission to a Food-Secure Future"*

**Exhibitor**

HDZ Roofing Co.

**Location**

Mt. Zion Convention Center

**Caterer**

Angelo's Catering

Member cost \$15  
RSVP by noon Tues., Junly7th

**JULY 3rd**

**Independence Day  
50/50 Raffle Drawing**

Mt. Zion Fletcher Park  
Blue Ribbon Night

**JULY 20th**

**Mix & Mingle**

Charro's  
4:30—6:30 p.m.

**AUGUST 12th**

**Luncheon**

*"Mt. Zion IL CEO"*  
Antioch Christian Church



## 2026-2027 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Kyle Karsten**  
President  
Macon Resources Inc.



**Laura Cullison**  
Vice 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 Horper**  
Executive Director  
Mt. Zion Chamber of Commerce



**Ashley Batchelder**  
Outgoing Officer Advisor  
Mt. Zion District Library



## July 2026 Luncheon



The luncheon on July 8, 2026, will be held at the Mt. Zion Convention Center. Tanya Melendez, Executive Director of the Good Samaritan Inn, will be our speaker. Angelo's Catering will be catering.

Tanya Melendez will present *"Nourishing Decatur: The Good Samaritan Inn's Mission to a Food-Secure Future"*. The Good Samaritan Inn has spent over four decades serving as the cornerstone of food security in Decatur, Illinois — operating a daily soup kitchen, an urban farm, and a SNAP-accepting farmers market to meet the needs of a community where nearly 15% of residents face food insecurity. Through the Noon Meal, Mercy Gardens, and Mercy Market programs, the Inn served more than 77,000 meals and harvested over 84,700 produce servings in 2025 alone — with demand expected to continue to grow. Guided by the simple belief that no one should go hungry, the Good Samaritan Inn remains committed to nourishing our neighbors today and building a more food-secure community tomorrow.

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 of the luncheon.

Please send your RSVP to [mtzionchamber@gmail.com](mailto:mtzionchamber@gmail.com) by Tuesday, July 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 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.

This is the last month of the prepaid luncheon series for August 2025-July 2026. The new prepaid luncheons will begin with the August 12, 2026 luncheon. The new series of prepaid luncheons are from August 2026-July 2027; that is one luncheon per month. The regular price of luncheons is \$15, which costs \$180 over a 12-month period. Our prepaid luncheons cost is \$150 per person, which is a \$30 saving for the year and brings the cost per luncheon to \$12.50 per luncheon. If you would like me to invoice you for the upcoming prepaid luncheons for Aug. 2026-Jul. 2027, email [mtzionchamber@gmail.com](mailto:mtzionchamber@gmail.com).

## Welcome New Members



Elara Caring is a hospice provider is a national company currently operating in 18 states including Central Illinois, offering a strong continuity of care services like hospice and others. Visit [elara.com](http://elara.com) for more information. Paula Hollingshead, Account Executive with Elara Caring. Contact her at [phollingshead@elara.com](mailto:phollingshead@elara.com) or call (217)725-7224.



The First Christian Church of Decatur has a Mt. Zion location at 1125 W. Florian Ave. Adam Hamerlinck is the pastor of their South Campus. Their mission is to develop devoted followers of Jesus Christ by growing and serving together. Visit <https://www.firstdecatur.org> for more information. Contact Adam at [ahamerlinck@firstdecatur.org](mailto:ahamerlinck@firstdecatur.org) or call him at (217)210-8593.



## Announcements

### Independence Day 50/50 Raffle Tickets



The raffle tickets are only \$1 each. Last year's winner won over \$700. You can buy your tickets from any of our [Board](#) members or [Ambassadors](#) between now and July 3rd. There are also two ticket outlets where you can buy your tickets Mt. Zion Del's Popcorn Shop and Kenney's Ace Hardware. The drawing will be at the Mt. Zion Blue Ribbon Night at Fletcher Park on July 3rd right before the fireworks. You do not have to be present to win. Festivities for the Blue Ribbon Night starts at 5 p.m.

### 2026-2027 Prepaid Luncheons



The current prepaid luncheons end as of the July 8, 2026 luncheon. Your 2026-2027 prepaid luncheons are available for \$150 per person for August 2026-July 2027; that is 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. 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 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](mailto: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 [mtzionchamber@gmail.com](mailto:mtzionchamber@gmail.com) email address will remain active for a few months as we run both email accounts in a parallel run before we drop Gmail altogether. For a while the Gmail account emails get forwarded to our Outlook account email.

There is more security with the Outlook account against phishing attempts. We are also adding an extra security app to the Outlook account; this is something your IT departments could do for your email accounts to protect you from phishing attempts.

# Happy 250th Fourth of July!



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

Here are some of the great opportunities for your business that come along with your membership:

**A. Member Spotlight**

Receive FREE marketing for your business by signing up your business for a [Member Spotlight](#). This includes recognition of your business with FREE radio advertising.

**B. Monthly Luncheons**

A great networking opportunity for your business. Chamber luncheons are held on the second Wednesday of every month. The Board strives to schedule outstanding speakers for each luncheon and create networking opportunities. The luncheons cost \$15 and are at different locations each month.

**C. Luncheon Exhibitor**

Showcase your business with a 5- to 10-minute presentation at a monthly luncheon at no cost to your business except for a door prize.

**D. Business After Hours**

Host a Business After Hours event at your business that draws Chamber members and community members to your location.

**E. Community Job Board**

Post all your job openings free of charge on the Community [Job Board](#) on our Chamber website. After you post a job, send us an email so we can approve it to be released to the public.

**F. Mix & Mingle**

Another great networking opportunity for you and your business. Join fellow Chamber members for great conversation, cocktails, and food while supporting a local member business. If you are a restaurant, we would love to consider hosting these gatherings at your business.

**G. Golf Outing**

Get your team together and become a sponsor for this fun day of networking. We are planning the [Golf Outing](#) now. This year it's August 24th at South Side Country Club. Ask about volunteer opportunities too.

These are just a few ways for you to fully take advantage of your Chamber membership and be a part of the Chamber community! Be sure to check our [website](#), read the newsletters, Like and follow our [Facebook](#) page, and attend the monthly luncheons to learn more about everything the Chamber offers to you and your business.

Kyle Karsten, MZCC President and  
Director of Development at  
Macon Resources Inc.



MT. ZION  
**CHAMBER**  
of Commerce

Member  
**Spotlight**



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 – Macon Resources Inc. They support individuals with developmental disabilities. Helping them to build and live meaningful lives focused on their growth, independence, and self-worth. MRI provides day services and helps support independent living and meaningful employment opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities. Find out more about their programs, services, and events at <https://maconresources.org>. Call Macon Resources Inc. at 217.875.8755 for more information.



## Independence Day 50/50 Raffle

**\$1 / Ticket**

**Ticket Outlets:**

**Del's Popcorn Shop Mt Zion  
Kenney's Ace Hardware**

Do NOT have to be present to win. Drawing July 3, 2026 at Mt. Zion Blue Ribbon Night at Fletcher Park before fireworks.

Winning number posted on Facebook & [www.mtzionchamber.org](http://www.mtzionchamber.org).

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

**Sponsorships due July 31, 2026.  
Teams or individual golfers  
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](http://mtzionchamber.org), email Chad Hatayama at [chatayama@apexnetworkpt.com](mailto:chatayama@apexnetworkpt.com) or call/text 217-791-0660

# SPONSORSHIP LEVELS:



## TITLE SPONSORSHIP: \$2,500

- Includes (2) Groups of 4 Golfers
- Large Signage at the Course
- Recognition along with social media mentions
- Email mentions/spotlighting your business
- Company is allowed to provide promotional items for each player

## GOLD SPONSORSHIP: \$1,000

- Includes (1) Group of 4 Golfers
- Signage at the event in large print and recognitions on social media and email.
- Company flyer or promo item allowed to be placed in every cart
- First 5 gets naming sponsorship for the proximities "Men's Long Drive brought to you by your company name"

## SILVER SPONSORSHIP: \$400

- Name listed on signage at the event
- Mentions on social media and email
- Promo items allowed to be placed in carts
- Company may place table/tent at a tee box (provide mini game/drink hole)

## HOLE SPONSORSHIP: \$150

- Small yard sign at a hole

## HOLE-IN-ONE SPONSORSHIP: \$500

- Signage at a hole-in-one hole
- Mentions on social media & email

## BRONZE SPONSORSHIP: \$250

- Name listed on signage at the event
- Mentions on social media and email
- Promo items allowed to be placed in carts

## LUNCH SPONSORSHIP: \$1200

- (1) Group of 4 Golfers
- Signage at the lunch area
- Mentions on social media & email

## PRACTICE GREEN (1) & DRIVING RANGE (1) SPONSORSHIP: \$250 EA

- Signage at Practice Green or Driving Range
  - Mentions on social media & email

Please make Checks Payable to: **Mt. Zion Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 84, Mt. Zion, IL 62549.**

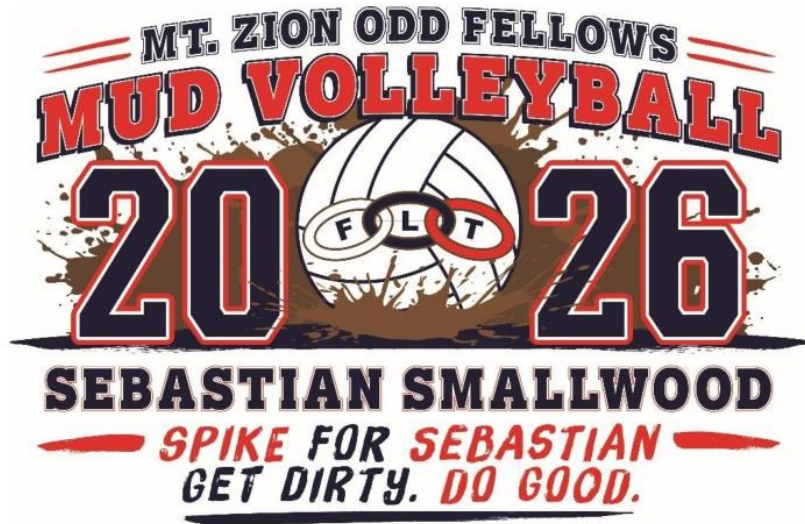
For more information visit: [mtzionchamber.org](http://mtzionchamber.org), email Chad Hatayama at [chatayama@apexnetworkpt.com](mailto:chatayama@apexnetworkpt.com) or call/text 217-791-0660



Member  
**Spotlight**



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 – WBGL Radio. They are a Not For Profit Contemporary Christian Music Radio Ministry at 88.1 FM in Macon County. WBGL's goal is to encourage people in their journey toward Christ. They offer on-air thank you spots for Businesses that want to partner with WBGL Radio, and they also get a free web listing and link on the WBGL website. More information by email to [Zoe@wbgl.org](mailto:Zoe@wbgl.org) or call 217-369-6639.



## MUD VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

at the Mt. Zion Pony Express Days

### Saturday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026

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

Register by August 1<sup>st</sup>:

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

Register between August 2<sup>nd</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>:

- \$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 6<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.mtzionoddfellows.org/mud-volleyball) or contact Corey McKenzie at 217-620-2194, [cjmckenzie1028@gmail.com](mailto:cjmckenzie1028@gmail.com).

