

## JUNE 2026 NEWSLETTER

### UPCOMING

**JUNE 10th**

**Luncheon**

12:00-1:00

**Program**

“Your Business Emergency  
Action Plan”

**Exhibitor**

Heartland Bank and Trust

**Location**

Antioch Christian Church

**Caterer**

Doherty’s Pub & Pins

Member cost \$15  
RSVP by noon Tues., June 9th

**JULY 3rd**

**Independence Day**

**50/50 Raffle**

Drawing before fireworks at  
the Mt. Zion Blue Ribbon Day  
at Fletcher Park

(DO NOT HAVE TO BE PRESENT TO WIN.)

**JULY 8th**

**Luncheon Speaker**

Tanya Melendez, Good  
Samaritan Inn



## President’s Message

Kyle Karsten

### A Year of Opportunity and Connection

As we begin a new fiscal year, I am honored to have another year to serve as your Mt. Zion Chamber Board President. I am grateful for the extended opportunity and excited about what we can continue to build on from last year and accomplish together.

First, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to board members who served this past year and are stepping off the Board. Thank you to Shelly Coslow, Jimmy Rade, and Ashley Hawkins. At the same time, I am pleased to welcome our newest Board Members Shane Bracken, Angie Manns, and Karalee Misner. Their enthusiasm and commitment have already made a positive impression, and I look forward to serving with our entire board in the year ahead.

*continued on [page 4](#)*



## 2026 Mt. Zion Golf Outing

Sponsor and sign up for our 3rd Annual Mt. Zion Golf Outing on Monday, August 24, 2026 at the South Side Country Club. It is a scramble with a shot gun start and games & prizes. Be sure to sponsor and/or register by either emailing [mtzionchamber@gmail.com](mailto:mtzionchamber@gmail.com) or register using the form on our website at [Golf Outing | Mt Zion Chamber](#).

Teams had a lot of fun last year. A PDF download button of the Registration Form and sponsorship information is on pages [7 & 8](#) of this newsletter. Sign up for a sponsorship, and/or a foursome .



## 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



## June 2026 Luncheon



The luncheon on June 10, 2026, will be held at the **Antioch Christian Church** at 5409 E. US Route 36, Decatur. Harry Hileman will present “Your Business Emergency Action Plan”. It is the season for severe weather. Come find out about emergency exit routes and EAP. In an office setting, fires and tornadoes have the biggest impact on the future of a business and pose the greatest risk to employees.

Doherty’s will be the caterer. 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, June 9th 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.

## Announcements

### New Resident/Business List



If you would like to receive a monthly list of new residents and businesses in the Village of Mt. Zion, email Linda at [mtzionchamber@gmail.com](mailto:mtzionchamber@gmail.com) and you will be added to the distribution list. This is another member benefit; we do not charge a fee for it.

### 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.



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

For those who may not know me, I have proudly called the Decatur and Mt. Zion area home for the past 19 years. I have had the privilege to serve a few non-profit organizations in our area during that time, and I currently serve as Development Director for Macon Resources, an organization supporting individuals with developmental disabilities. Family is at the center of my life, and I have been blessed with an amazing wife, Jeanne, for more than 30 years, three wonderful adult children, and over the past 3 years the joy of becoming a grandfather 3 times. Our first granddaughter Nora affectionately calls me "Pappy," a title I proudly cherish.

As we look ahead, we want to continue to focus on three key priorities for the coming year:

#### **Building Stronger Relationships**

We want to know our members better. Our goal is to strengthen existing relationships, create new connections, and discover additional ways the Chamber can help your business thrive while serving our broader community.

#### **Strengthening Our Foundation**

During the past year, we spent time reviewing and updating our Bylaws and Policy & Procedure Manuals to ensure that the Chamber continues to operate efficiently, effectively, and in a manner that best serves our members and community. We will live out the details in those documents and evaluate them over the next year.

#### **Increasing Member Engagement**

We encourage every member to become more and more actively involved. Whether through attendance at events, participation on committees, or engagement with our Ambassadors program, we believe the Chamber is strongest when its members are engaged and connected.

In addition to these priorities, we have several new ideas and initiatives planned to make this year positive, productive, and enjoyable. I am excited about the opportunities ahead and confident that, working together, we can continue building a Chamber that supports business growth, fosters meaningful relationships, and strengthens our community.

Thank you for your membership, your support, and your partnership. I look forward to serving you and working alongside each of you in the year ahead.

Kyle Karsten, President  
Mt. Zion Chamber of Commerce

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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 – J.J. Swartz Co. at 2120 N. Oakland Ave. in Decatur. J.J. Swartz is a full service remodeling and restoration business that has been serving Central Illinois for 105 years. They specialize in bathroom, kitchen, room addition, interior/exterior remodeling, as well as handyman and insurance restoration. Visit <https://jjswartzco.com> to find out more about their services. Call J.J. Swartz Co. at 217-877-2611 today.



## 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 [Golf Outing | Mt Zion Chamber](#)



**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