

OCTOBER 2025 NEWSLETTER



President's Message

Kyle Karsten

Fall is officially here, even though the warm temperatures are hanging around...and yet as we look around, farmers are in the fields, pumpkin spice & caramel apples are everywhere, and we have Friday night football and all the other fun fall activities all around us.

School has been back in session for over a month now, and last month we showed our appreciation by delivering gift bags to teachers and staff at the Mt. Zion Schools. A big thank you to all the businesses who donated items as well as the volunteers who helped put together and deliver all of the gift bags. This year's response of support from our members was amazing – thank you!!

Now as we move further into October, be sure to mark your calendar for our Annual Mt. Zion Community Prayer Breakfast which will take place on Wednesday, October 15th at 7:00 a.m. at the Mt. Zion Convention Center. Our speaker this year is Michael Scherer who has an amazing story of his life to share with us, so you definitely don't want to miss this year's event! Tickets

continued on [page 5](#)



Member Benefits

- Free Member Spotlight Radio Advertising
- Referrals to Potential Customers
- Member-to-Member Networking
- Business Education/Speakers
- Ribbon Cuttings
- Monthly Luncheons (second Wed.)
- Monthly Newsletter
- Increased Community Visibility
- Chamber Member Directory Listing
- Shop Local Contest
- Free Marketing Landing Page
- Invitations to Chamber Events
- Inexpensive \$25 Advertising in Newsletter, E-mail Blast, or Facebook Post
- Business After Hours
- Luncheon Exhibitor
- Business Expo & Taste
- Sponsorship Opportunities
- Free job listings
- Chamber on the Rocks
- Community Clicker

UPCOMING

OCTOBER 8

Luncheon

12:00-1:00

Location

Antioch Christian Church

Program

Jerry Culp, Macon County
Conservation District

Member cost \$15
RSVP by Tuesday, Oct. 7th

OCTOBER 1

Chamber on the Rocks

4:30-6:30 p.m. Bevo's

OCTOBER 15

Mt. Zion Community Prayer Breakfast

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

NOVEMBER 11

Veterans Day Breakfast Antioch Christian Church

NOVEMBER 12

Luncheon

Fletcher Park Recreation Ctr.
Jarek Shafer



2025-2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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Decatur Earthmover Credit
Union



October 2025 Luncheon



The October 8, 2025 luncheon will be at the Antioch Christian Church, 5409 E. US Route 36, Decatur. The cost is \$15. Registration is from 11:30 - 12 noon. The Antioch Christian Church luncheon buffet opens at 11:45. The luncheon starts at 12 noon.

Jerry Culp, Executive Director of the Macon County Conservation District, will be giving us an update on their programs, & events, facilities, how to get involved, and about their new indoor-outdoor classroom called Hidden Hollow. Their mission is to promote the conservation of natural and cultural resources by acquiring, maintaining, and restoring areas of natural and cultural significance within Macon County, and to protect and preserve those spaces for the education, recreation, and enjoyment of all its citizens in perpetuity.

Enjoy our speaker and the delicious food prepared by the Antioch Christian Church. Bring your business cards and network. If you have any information flyers you want to put on the luncheon tables before the luncheon begins, please do so and be sure to pick up any remaining flyers at the end of the luncheon.

Please send your RSVP to mtzionchamber@gmail.com by Tuesday, October 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.



Wed., Oct. 1, 2025, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Chamber on the Rocks

Bevo's

Join us for Chamber on the Rocks on Thurs., October 1, 2025, at Bevo's, 205 W. Debby Drive, Mt. Zion, IL 62549 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!



Member
Spotlight



(217) 876-8800

www.melanieschelling.com

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 – Melanie Schelling State Farm. They are committed to helping their customers protect what matters most. Their team takes the time to understand your individual circumstances and unique needs, ensuring you have the right coverage for every stage of life to provide peace of mind and security for the years ahead. At Melanie Schelling State Farm, community always comes first. Protect what matters most with them. Call Melanie today at 217-876-8800!



President's Message continued from page 1:

are \$13 per person and can be purchased by October 13, 2025 in Mt. Zion at Busey Bank, Prairie State Bank & Trust, the Village of Mt. Zion, online at mtzionchamber.org, or by contacting Linda Harper at 217-864-2526. You can also purchase tickets from any of our Board members or Ambassadors. To order a Table of Six, email mtzionchamber@gmail.com.

As always, please know that your Chamber is here for you, so please take advantage of everything that comes with your membership, and please let us know if there's anything we can do to help. Have you seen both of the new summary sheets of the member opportunities you have as part of the Chamber:

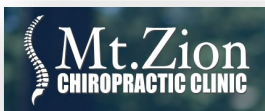
- [Mt. Zion Chamber Member Benefits](#)
- [2026 MZCC Sponsorships at a Glance](#)

Today, I would like to again personally invite you to attend our regularly scheduled monthly luncheons and other networking events like Chamber on the Rocks, Ribbon Cuttings, and Business After Hours. These are great ways to meet and connect with other business leaders in our community.

See you soon and thanks again for letting me serve as the President of your Mt. Zion Chamber.

Kyle Karsten
Development Director
Macon Resources – MRI

Welcome New Members



Dr. Chris Ntor-Uhe with Mt. Zion Chiropractic Clinic is located at 103 E. Ashland Ave. in Mt. Zion. They offer personalized, non-invasive care to help patients address the root causes of pain, not just the symptoms. Dr. Ntor-Ue combines chiropractic and acupuncture techniques to support long-term wellness and recovery. Call 217-864-5566 for an appointment if you are struggling with neck or back pain, headaches or migraines, carpal tunnel, sciatica, or any other health condition.



Shyler Kraus is the Marketing Director for Lockhart's Barber College located at 1624 S. Taylorville Rd. in Decatur. Lockhart's Barber College trains student barbers in traditional men's haircutting techniques, emphasizing both skill and personal style. Their walk-in services under the supervision of an instructor are: haircut, clean up/ line up, beard trim, and shampoo. Lockhart's Barber College has established itself as the premier school for aspiring barbers in Central Illinois.

Thank You Sponsors & Volunteers!

This year we were able to pay for 20 Sunshine Supplies for Teachers memberships instead of just 5. The teachers were thrilled! Gift cards were purchased from 17 member restaurants: Bevo's, Charro Mexican Restaurant & Bar, Coz's Restaurant, Crawford's Pizza & Pub, Diamonds Family Restaurant, Doherty's Pub & Pins, El Corral Mexican Restaurant, Filippo's Pizza & Pasta, Four Star Restaurant, Las Margaritas, Mi Casa Mexican Cuisine, Papa Murphy's, Stix on 36, Subway, Taco Bell, The FourNine, and The Wharf.



2025 Mt. Zion Teacher & Staff Appreciation Sponsors

Sunshine Supplies for Teachers Sponsors:



Gold Sponsors:



Silver Sponsor

Mt. Zion Liquor





MT. ZION COMMUNITY Prayer Breakfast



KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
Michael Scherer
Pianist and Songwriter

Michael Scherer, a Millikin University graduate, is a professional pianist, songwriter and youth minister. Despite living with three autoimmune diseases and relearning piano after hospitalizations, his faith has carried him through. Join us as he shares his story through music with vocal accompaniment by Zach Garret.

Wednesday, Oct. 15, 2025

7 a.m. | Doors open 6:30 a.m.

Mt. Zion Convention Center
1400 Village Parkway, Mt. Zion

\$13* | Includes breakfast buffet.

A great opportunity for community members from all denominations to join in a time of fellowship and prayer.

* Advance tickets required. Buy your tickets by October 13, 2025, in Mt. Zion at Busey Bank, Prairie State Bank & Trust, Village of Mt. Zion, HSHS St. Mary's, or online at mtzionchamber.org or call 217-864-2526.

Mt Zion Chamber of
Commerce
@mtzionchamber



venmo

GOLD SPONSOR



SILVER SPONSORS

CENTRAL ILLINOIS
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EVERGREEN
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LAW OFFICES

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CATERING

Prairie State Bank & Trust

Churches of
Mt. Zion

This is the 13th year Mt. Zion Chamber of Commerce and HSHS St. Mary's Hospital, our Gold Sponsor, have scheduled this important community event. Please plan on coming to hear Michael's story.

Advance tickets only. Individual tickets are \$13 each. Tickets can be ordered by emailing mtzionilchamber@gmail.com or by using the following link [2025 Mt. Zion Community Prayer Breakfast](#). Your ticket order will be mailed to you unless it is too close to the event then you will be on the Will Call list. The cost of a 6-person table including a table sign with your business or organization name is \$75. I will invoice you. To order a table, email mtzionilchamber@gmail.com.

Due Oct. 17, 2025



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, October 17, 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



PRESENTS:



VETERANS DAY BREAKFAST



Honoring All Who Served



TUESDAY

NOV 11, 2025

07:00 AM

DOORS OPEN AT 06:45 AM

ANTIOCH CHRISTIAN CHURCH

5409 E. US ROUTE 36

DECATUR, IL 62521

Program:

Macon County Honor Guard

Mt. Zion High School Mixed Quartet

Speaker: Jimmy Rade

Roll Call of Armed Services



RSVPs Appreciated by Nov. 7th

WWW.MTZIONCHAMBER.ORG/EVENTS

OR CALL 217.864.2526



COMPLIMENTARY COFFEE, WATER, DONUTS

BACON, AND EGGS

FOLLOWING THE PROGRAM

COMING SOON



Mt. Zion Chamber Business Decoration Contest

Decorate your Decatur
or Mt. Zion business
inside or outside in the
most creative and
festive way possible to
show us your festive
spirit!



Entry form and details available Nov. 1st at:
www.mtzionchamber.org

Mt. Zion Chamber of Commerce presents...

Spotlight on New York City

June 4 – 8, 2026

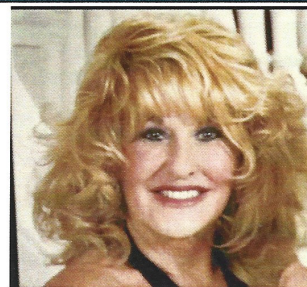


Book Now
& Save
\$50
Per Person

HIGHLIGHTS... Greenwich Village, Wall Street, Two Broadway Shows, Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, 9/11 Memorial, 9/11 Museum



For more information contact
Linda Roberts
Best Trips Ever
(217) 864-4666
lindarobertsbest@comcast.net



2026 Mt. Zion Chamber Sponsorships at a Glance

	Event & Date	Gold Sponsor	Silver Sponsor	Bronze Sponsor
A	Expo & Taste March 21, 2026	\$650 Two 8 x 8 booths electricity included Designated Gold Sponsor sat event, logo in/on: flyer, newspaper ads, MZCC newsletter, emails and social media messages, and your ad eblasted to membership and on Facebook page	\$400 One 8 x 8 booth electricity \$25 extra Designated Silver Sponsor sat event, logo in: flyer, and your ad eblasted to membership	n/a Booth for \$250 to members
B	Awards Banquet April 23, 2026	\$1,000 One table for eight with table sign, logo on ticket, program, emails, newsletter, website, & social media, post your ad on our Facebook page & eblast ad, large logo at event	\$500 Four tickets, logo in program, emails, newsletter, website, social media, logo at event, post your ad on our Facebook page	\$250 Company name in program, logo in program, emails, newsletter, website, social media, logo at event, company name recognized at event
C	Golf Outing* August 24, 2026	\$1,000 One team of 4 golfers, large signage, co. flyer or promo item allowed in cart, 1st five get naming sponsorship for proximities	\$400 Name on signage, email & social media mentions, promo item allowed in cart, co. table/tent allowed w/mini game/drink hole	\$250 Name on signage, email & social media mentions, promo item allowed in cart
D	Mt. Zion Teacher & Staff Appreciation September 9, 2026	\$500 Receive recognition on gift bags, in newsletter, and on Facebook page	\$250 Receive recognition in newsletter and on Facebook page	\$100 Receive recognition in newsletter
E	Prayer Breakfast October 21, 2026	\$2,000* Two tables of 6 Sponsor name announced at event, program greeting, receive recognition at the event, in radio ad, logo in the program, in newsletter, on Facebook page, on our website, and your ad eblasted to the membership and on Facebook	\$1,000 One table of 6 Sponsor name announced at event, on flyers, and in the program, and your ad eblasted to the membership	\$500 4 tickets Sponsor name announced at event, in newsletter and program, and free ad in newsletter
F	Christmas Decoration Contest** November 2, 2026 \$100 Sponsor			
G	Veterans Day Breakfast November 11, 2026 \$100 Table Sponsor			
H	Shop Local Contest November 12, 2026	\$300 Logo on promotional materials, in newsletter, and on Facebook page	\$150 Logo on promotional materials and logo in newsletter	\$100 Logo on promotional materials
I	Non-Profit Spotlight December 1, 2026	\$500 Receive recognition at the event, in/on program, newsletter, Facebook page, our website, and your ad eblasted to the membership	\$250 Receive recognition at the event, in the program and newsletter, on website	\$100 Receive recognition at the event and in newsletter

*More sponsorships available.

**!Logo on all promos.



2026 Mt. Zion Chamber Sponsorships at a Glance Order Form

Sponsorship Packages (choose one):

- ☐ **Gold Sponsorship Package (A-D)**
- Price: \$3,950
 - Discount: -\$200
 - Total Package Cost: \$3,750
 - Note: Prayer Breakfast not included.
- ☐ **Silver Sponsorship Package (A-E)**
- Price: \$2,550
 - Discount: -\$150
 - Total Package Cost: \$2,000
- ☐ **Bronze Sponsorship Package (A-E)**
- Price: \$1,100
 - Discount: -\$100
 - Total Package Cost: \$1,000

Extra Sponsorships

- ☐ **Christmas Decoration \$100**
- ☐ **Veterans Day Breakfast \$100**

Shop Local Contest:

- ☐ \$300
- ☐ \$150
- ☐ \$100

Non-Profit Spotlight

- ☐ \$500
- ☐ \$250
- ☐ \$150

Business or Organization Name: _____

Contact Name: _____ **Email:** _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____ **Phone:** _____

Due by 02/27/2026 to mtzionilchamber@gmail.com or Mt. Zion Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 84, Mt. Zion, IL 62549