

SEPTEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER



President's Message

Kyle Karsten

Looking back on the past weeks...First let me say THANK YOU to all that helped plan and to those that attended our 2nd Annual Chamber Golf Outing. It was a fun day and a huge success. Thank you to all of our sponsors, volunteers, and golfers for making it such a great day! Thank you to South Side Country Club. We look forward to doing it again on August 24, 2026.



continued on [page 4](#)



Curious about our June 2026 trip to the Big Apple? Don't miss today's Spotlight on New York City presentation at 2 p.m.—your chance to learn all about this exciting travel opportunity! 🗽 Sign up here:

https://collette.zoom.us/meeting/register/_JcqnChoTBWdlhzDEjmyMQ

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

UPCOMING

SEPTEMBER 10

Picnic Luncheon

12:00-1:00

Location

Fletcher Park Pavilion

Program

Networking , Share Ideas, &
Get to Know Each Other

Member cost \$15
RSVP by Tuesday, Sept. 9th

SEPTEMBER 4

Chamber on the Rocks

4:30-6:30 p.m. Las Margaritas

SEPTEMBER 15

**Prayer Breakfast Sponsor-
ships Due**

OCTOBER 4

Chamber on the Rocks

4:30-6:30 p.m. Bevos

OCTOBER 8

Luncheon

Antioch Christian Church
Jerry Culp, Macon County
Conservation District

OCTOBER 15

**Mt. Zion Community
Prayer Breakfast**

Mt. Zion Convention Ctr.
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



September 2025 Luncheon



The September 10, 2025 luncheon will be at the Mt. Zion Fletcher Pavilion. The cost of our luncheon on September 9th is \$15. Registration is from 11:30 - 12 noon. The picnic lunch opens at 11:45. The luncheon starts at 12 noon. It will be catered by Subway.

Let's have some fun and enjoy a more relaxed picnic-style luncheon. We will network and get to know each other better by telling about ourselves and one fun thing about yourself, your business's products and services, what new skills you have learned and/or new things that are happening at your businesses, ask questions, and share ideas for MZCC.

Please send your RSVP to mtzionilchamber@gmail.com by Tuesday, September 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.



Thurs., Sept. 4, 2025, 4:30-6:30 p.m.
Chamber on the Rocks
Las Margaritas – Mt. Zion

Join us for Chamber on the Rocks on Thurs., September 4, 2025, at Las Margaritas, 1475 E. Village Parkway, 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!



President's Message continued from page 1:

Moving forward, your Chamber has a lot of great events on the horizon, starting with our September luncheon, which is our annual networking and conversational picnic luncheon. There is no speaker this month, but Chamber members will have the opportunity to network and chat with other members. This luncheon will take place outside in the Fletcher Park Pavilion. Plan to join us on September 10th.

After that, we have the Annual Mt. Zion Community Prayer Breakfast on October 15th. Michael Scherer will be our speaker this year.

And then on Veteran's Day in November, we will have our Third Annual Veteran's Day Breakfast, which will honor all those brave men and women who have fought for our country. Join us on November 11th.

Our Board is working hard to make our Chamber the best it can be for you, so please take advantage of everything that comes along with your membership. We couldn't do it without you!

Honored to Serve as your Chamber President,
Kyle Karsten – Development Director at Macon Resources – MRI

Welcome New Members



JDM Custom Construction LLC is owned by Josh Milligan. They are located at 2045 CR 300E, Dalton City, IL 61925. They provide top-notch building services for homes and businesses that specialize in tailored construction projects, adapting to client needs and design preferences. JDM Custom Construction LLC use only the finest materials and adhere to customer instructions. Call 217.519.2825 or email jdmcustomconstruction@outlook.com.



Amy Bliefnick is the President/CEO of Macon Resources, Inc. They are located at 2121 Hubbard Ave., Decatur, IL 62526. MRI has been serving individuals with developmental disabilities since 1957. They have adult and children programs and services. MRI's manufacturing and janitorial services include: community employment, Jan-Pro, License & Specialty Plates, and Production & Manufacturing services. Contact Macon Resources, Inc. at 217.875.1910. Visit <https://maconresources.org>.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SPONSORS AND VOLUNTEERS



Thank you to our Hole Sponsors

Better Homes and Gardens -- Randy Grigg
Decatur Orthopedic Center, LLC
Friends of the Mt. Zion District Library
International Eyecare Center
MCK CPAs & Advisors
Passion Community Church
Plume

2025 MT. ZION COMMUNITY PRAYER BREAKFAST

Please be a sponsor of this year's Prayer Breakfast with Michael Scherer as our speaker. The 2025 Mt. Zion Community Prayer Breakfast on October 15, 2025 from 7-8 a.m. will be at the Mt. Zion Convention Center. Our caterer is Nelson's Catering.



Michael Scherer is a graduate of Millikin University, professional piano player and songwriter, youth minister, and a family man with a loving wife and three daughters. He has three autoimmune diseases that cause him pain and huge ups and downs with his health. One disease requires injections twice a month. Through recent hospitalizations with his autoimmune diseases, he has had to reteach himself to play the piano. Michael Scherer's faith in God has brought him through his battle with his diseases. He is grateful to be healing mentally, physically, and spiritually. Michael will be delivering his story blended with his piano accompaniment and songs will be sung by Zach Garret.

To be a sponsor, please email me at mtzionilchamber@gmail.com to let me know which sponsorship level you would like by September 15, 2025; they are on [page 11](#). There are three levels of sponsorships available for this year's Prayer Breakfast. HSHS St. Mary's Hospital is our Gold Sponsor. Each level of sponsorship contains a various number of tickets included in the sponsorship package as well as a different amount and kind of advertising, promotions, and mentions. You will be invoiced. You can download the Sponsorship Form at [Events | Mt Zion Chamber](#) or send me an email. Let me know which sponsorship level you wish to have.

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. We are still providing social distancing with 6 people per table at each 10-person table. The cost of a 6-person table including a table sign with your business or organization name is \$75. I will invoice you. The following the Mt. Zion businesses ticket outlets will be available soon: Busey Bank, Prairie State Bank & Trust, and the Village of Mt. Zion. To order a table, email mtzionilchamber@gmail.com.

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.



August Photo Gallery



Mossy Oak Properties—Jimmy Rade Ribbon Cutting &
Business After Hours August 7, 2025



Jami Bennet spoke about the importance of CPR at our August 13, 2025 Luncheon. The Glenwood was our Exhibitor;
Shelly Coslow won the door prize.



August Photo Gallery continued



Mt. Zion Taco Bell Ribbon Cutting
August 22, 2025



2025 Mt. Zion Chamber Golf Outing, August 25, 2025.

Due Sept. 5, 2025



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	45
TOTAL	227



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, 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

Due Sept. 15, 2025



**Mt. Zion Community Prayer
Breakfast
October 15, 2025**

Sponsorship Due Date: September 15, 2025

	Gold Sponsorship \$2,000	Silver Sponsorship \$1,000	Bronze Sponsorship \$500
Tickets to Prayer Breakfast	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 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
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 and logo on Prayer Breakfast Facebook boost	Sponsor name and logo on Prayer Breakfast flyers Sponsor logo on Prayer Breakfast banners	
Sponsor Inclusion in Chamber Media	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

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

Mt. Zion Chamber of Commerce presents...

Spotlight on New York City

June 4 – 8, 2026



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

