



# ALBION AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

# Chamber Chat

## QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

October - December 2025

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Girls Night Out**
  - October 2, 5-8PM
  - Uptown Albion
- **Fall Yard Sales**
  - October 4
  - Albion
- **Boo on the Bricks**
  - October 31<sup>st</sup>, 5:30PM-out of candy
  - 5th St
- **2026 Membership Drive**
  - Invoices to go out in November
- **2025 Award Nominations**
  - to start on our site in November
- **Chamber Board meetings**
  - Oct. 7, Nov. 11, Dec. 9
- **Chamber membership meeting**
  - Dec. 13, 12-1PM
  - Brick Street Inn
  - Lunch provided
- **Breakfast with Santa**
  - December 13, 8AM-10AM
  - Albion Fire Station
- **Christmas Parade**
  - December 13, 5:30PM
  - Uptown Albion
  - "Hometown Heroes"



## 3rd Annual Artisan Fall Festival A Success!

The 3rd Annual Artisan's Fall Festival was held on Saturday, September 20th in uptown Albion on the historic courthouse lawn and square with beautiful weather and great entertainment! The event was a success boasting 7 food vendors plus local eateries, and 17 vendor booths.

Attendees were entertained all day long with music from Mike Glover & Jared Hasewinkle, Tommy Stillwell, Jon Rochner, and Abbi Cook, The Singing Blacksmith by Bryan Dale Headley, and Cathy Markman & Friends. Guests also enjoyed the Flag raising by VFW #8222 Color Guard feat. music by Emily Spray and Cally Smith, Artisans Run/Walk 5K & 10K to raise money for the new Albion Amphitheater, inflatables, face painting, horse rides by West Meadow Ranch, Touch a Tractor, Touch a First Responder Vehicle, Jail & Bail by the Heritage Preservation Society, ...continued on next page.

## WE HAVE A WINNER!

Congratulations to baby Delilah for being voted Edwards County's cutest baby during the Artisans Fall Festival on September 20<sup>th</sup>. Delilah was voted in by having the most votes on Facebook and in person at the festival. Congratulations to this little cutie! Delilah is the 9 month old daughter of Peyton Dunn and the late Jaxon Lee of Albion. She enjoys playing with mommy, watching Mickey Mouse and Strawberry Shortcake, and her favorite food is mashed potatoes.

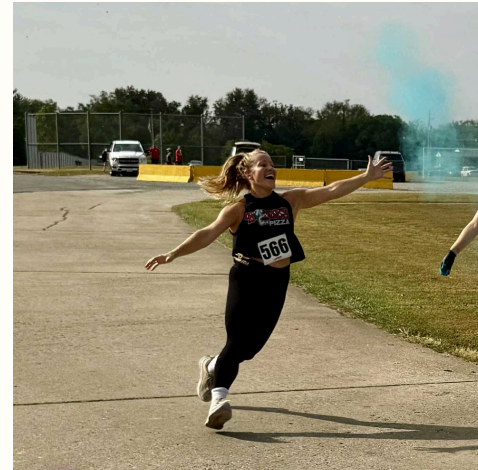


## 3RD ANNUAL ARTISAN FAIR A SUCCESS! CONT.

...50/50 Raffle by the Albion Arts Council, Chamber's Cutest Baby Contest, Caricatures by Natalie, Cake Walk by the EC Senior Citizens Center, and a large quilt display by the Friendship Quilt Guild.

The 9th annual Edwards County Paint Out held on Monday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> was also a success boasting 10 Plein Air artists from all over the U.S., 8 local artists, and new this year the "Young Artist's Studio" for artists under 18 featuring several wonderful entries. With the rainy weather we saw beautiful artwork with intricate colors. Thanks to all who participated and attended! Thank you to our award sponsors WGH Albion, CNB of Albion, West Salem Development Association, CRHPC of Albion, Doug Raber State Farm, Mitchell Insurance, The Watering Can, and The Albion Area Chamber of Commerce. Special thanks to the Albion Arts Council for partnering with the Chamber for both of the weekend's events!

The much anticipated Art Show and Sale Monday evening saw the community comes together to view and appreciate the artist's renditions of our loved landmarks, homestead and landscapes. Attendees have the chance to meet the artists, listen to how they were to paint a particular scene and their interpretations onto canvas. We look forward to our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary next year!



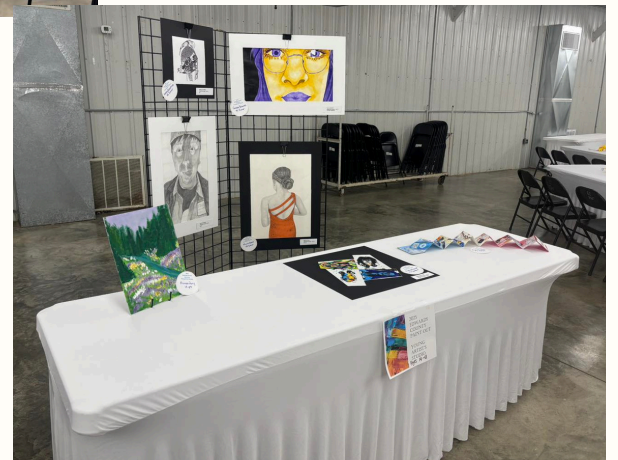
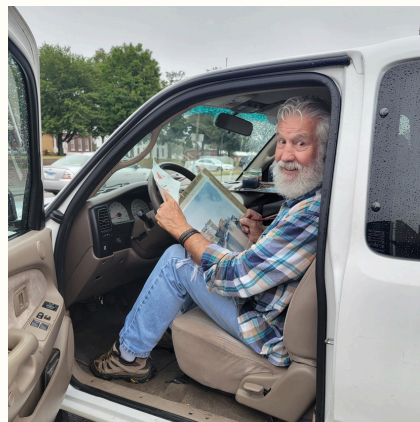
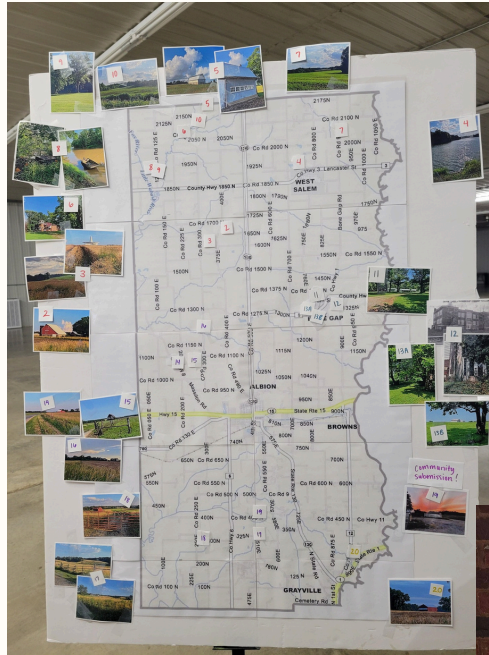
Alli Bobe, Artisan's Race



"Wet Streets in WS"



# EDWARDS COUNTY PAINT OUT





# EDWARDS COUNTY PAINT OUT



## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS AND HOSTS OF THE 2025 EDWARDS COUNTY PAINT OUT!

### Plein Air Art Show Awards:

Wabash General Hospital Albion Clinic - Best of Show \$250

Citizens National Bank of Albion – People’s Choice \$250

Albion Area Chamber of Commerce – Best of Edwards County \$250

West Salem Development Assoc. – Best of West Salem \$250

Artist - Denny Dowdy, Kansas City, MO

Artist - David Harl, Fairfield, IL

Artist – Lee Copen, Mountain View, MO

Artist - Tammie Dickerson, Overland Park, KS

### Local Art Show Awards:

CRHPC Albion Community Health Center – Best of Show \$250

Doug Raber State Farm Insurance – Best of Edwards County \$250

Mitchell Insurance – People’s Choice \$100

The Watering Can – Best of Albion \$100

The Watering Can – Best of Bone Gap \$100

Artist - Rodger Minatra, Albion, IL

Artist - Kaci Moats, Albion, IL

Artist – Jordan Robinson, Albion, IL

Artist – Jordan Robinson, Albion, IL

Artist – Kaci Moats, Albion, IL

### Hosts Providing Lodging:

George and Rita Woods

Mike and Pat Ristvedt

### Artist’s Luncheon:

Edwards County Farm Bureau

Citizens National Bank of Albion

CRHPC, Erin Braddock

Wabash General Hospital – Albion Clinic

### Artist’s Goody Bags:

Wabash General Hospital

Albion Clinic

CNB

### Young Artist’s Studio:

Krista Garrod and Albion Arts Council

(0-8) Remi Bunting, (9-13) Rebecca Hortin, Olivia Bunting, Evelyn Edwards,

(14 and Over) Kayci Thompson, Hadley Haycraft and Grace Brands



# STAY IN THE KNOW



## MEMBERSHIP DRIVE & ANNUAL AWARDS

Membership invoices will go out starting in November and will be due by December 31<sup>st</sup>. See all the wonderful benefits the Chamber has to offer listed later in this newsletter!

Annual award nominations will also be open starting in November. Each year we are happy to accept nominations for Person of the Year, Business of the Year, and Non-Profit of the Year. *Remember:* nominations are voted on by a third, non-partial party outside of Edwards County. They do not know any of the nominees. Please give a substantial essay with your nomination for why you are nominating. Nominations can be submitted at [albionareachamber.org](http://albionareachamber.org) starting in November.



## "HOMETOWN HEROES" THIS CHRISTMAS!

The Lighted Christmas Parade will be held in Albion on December 13 at 5:30pm. Plan to come up and enjoy the parade and linger uptown for a bit afterward. This year we will be honoring "Hometown Heroes" as our theme. Floats can arrive to the fairgrounds starting at 4pm that afternoon for lineup.

Show us how your business, group, or organization honors our local heroes of all kinds by entering a float!

## SHIFT 10 THIS OCTOBER

Stay tuned this October on our Chamber Facebook page as we encourage you to "Shift 10"!

Shifting 10 means you try to shift at least 10% of your spending to local businesses where possible. Each Tuesday on Facebook we'll talk all about the large impact this has on our small community and how you can easily do it.





# UPCOMING EVENTS



**NOTICE:** We will be discontinuing our “Chamber Bucks” program for 2026. All unspent Chamber Bucks must be used by December 31<sup>st</sup>. Businesses with bucks can contact the Chamber until January 30<sup>th</sup> to receive reimbursement.



# UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.



ALBION AREA  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

# MEMBER MEETING

THURSDAY  
DECEMBER 11

---

BRICK STREET INN  
LUNCH PROVIDED BY AACOC  
12 PM

ALBION AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



# What's New?

SALES, ANNIVERSARIES, SPECIALS, NEW PRODUCTS,  
EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHTS, RENOVATIONS, ETC?  
**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

---

EMAIL US AT  
ALBIONAREACHAMBER@GMAIL.COM  
**WE'D LOVE TO SUPPORT YOU!**

ALBIONAREACHAMBER.ORG



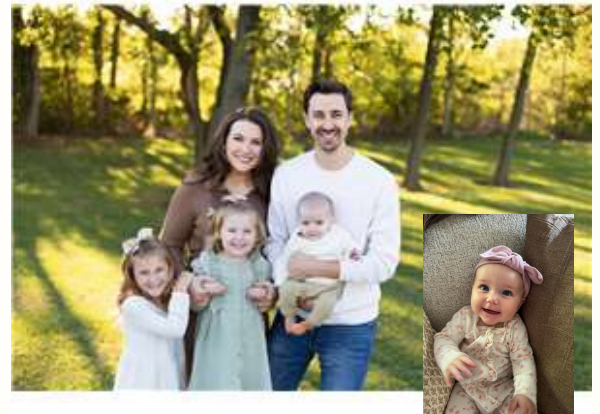
# MEET OUR BOARD



Our board members are happy to serve our community through their work on the Chamber. Thank you to our volunteer board members who help this organization keep moving. Elections are held every February. In 2026 we will be voting for President, Vice President and Treasurer as well as filling open spots on our board. Board nominations can be directed to [albionareachamber@gmail.com](mailto:albionareachamber@gmail.com).

## MICHELE WARD INTERIM PRESIDENT

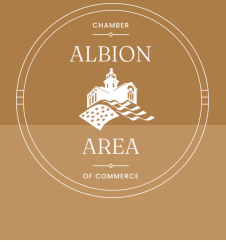
Michele is a proud Edwards County native and 2010 graduate of ECHS and a 2014 graduate of USI Romain College of Business. She has been the owner of Callieco Home Fragrance since 2018 and loves making candles. She resides in Albion with her husband Trevor and four kids Callie, Merit, Ari, and Collins. She has been a Chamber member and board member for four years and plans events like Girls Night Out and Sip N' Shop. Her favorite thing about serving on the Chamber is creating fun, positive change in the community and is encouraged by the shared vision that so many business owners and residents have for our small town.



## MICHELLE BURTON INTERIM VICE PRESIDENT

Michelle grew up all around the world since her dad was in the Navy. She graduated from Roosevelt Roads High School in Puerto Rico in 1991. Michelle has 3 wonderful daughters and 3 perfect grandchildren. She is a longtime member of Little Prairie Christian Church and is the church secretary and the treasurer for the preschool. Michelle has been with the Chamber since 2022 and loves planning and helping with everything. Her favorite event is definitely Handbag Bingo and seeing how excited people get when they win.

# MEET OUR BOARD CONT.



## AVERI GOODMAN SECRETARY

Averi resides in West Salem with her husband Tom, centrally located between their daughters and grandchildren. She graduated from Fairfield High School and is a McKendree University Alumni. She has been with Citizens National Bank of Albion since 2014 and is the bank's Assistant Vice President, Marketing and CRA Officer. She also owns Color Me Perfect Weddings and Events. Averi serves as the Chamber Secretary and officer to the board. She plans Chamber events like the Artisans Fall Festival, Paint Out and So. Illinois Boutique/Antique Crawl. Her favorite thing about serving on the Chamber is creating events and collaborations with Edwards County businesses and organizations that bring folks in from all over. A story she likes to tell, happened during the Eclipse Celebration. People traveled from all over the world to our historical towns on that day. Several times over, they would tell the Chamber "You have no idea what a treasure you have here." "It's like no other place we've ever been". Her reply was always, "Oh, yes we do and how blessed we truly are." Our close-knit, community spirit is something that's never taken for granted.



## LINDSEY MORRIS TREASURER

Lindsey currently serves as Treasurer for the Albion Area Chamber of Commerce, a position she has held since January 2023. She grew up in Edwards County, graduating from Edwards County High School. She continued her education at Wabash Valley College earning an associate's degree in nursing. Lindsey has been a licensed Registered Nurse since 1993. Lindsey finished her nursing career in 2013 at Deaconess serving as the Patient Safety Officer for the health system. Currently, Lindsey is employed as the Executive Director of Edwards County Housing Authority. She has been employed in this capacity since 2014. Lindsey currently serves on the Illinois Association of Housing Authorities Board as Past President and as Past President of the Egyptian Council of Housing Officials. Lindsey has been married to her husband, Danny, for 31 years. She has a daughter, Jessica, and a granddaughter, Ava. Lindsey's favorite Chamber events are Handbag Binga and Breakfast with Santa. Her favorite part of being a chamber member is encouraging members to network with each other and providing Chamber activities to showcase the community and its people.





# MEET OUR BOARD CONT.



## BROOKE KNIGHT BOARD MEMBER

Brooke is a Wabash county native, but has lived in Albion for the past 8 years. She is a graduate of Vincennes University PTA program, as well as a Bachelors Degree in Healthcare Administration. She is married to her husband Dylan and a mom to their son, Kylan. She works part time at Wabash General Hospital as a Physical Therapist Assistant. She runs a small T-shirt business called Knight and Day Designs, and assists her mother in law with Brick Street Inn. She has been a board member for 2 years and helps with merchandise, and many events. Her favorite part of being on the chamber is hosting events for the community like handbag bingo and GNO, brining life to a small town, and promoting our businesses.



## KATE SPEIR BOARD MEMBER

Kate graduated from Grayville High School in 2016. She then studied Education at USI. After marrying her husband, Quentin, she moved to Edwards County and has since fallen in love with our community. Kate and her husband own 3 businesses in Edwards County. If you ever need a cake, oil field supply, or a bounce house... she's your girl! She understands the importance of commerce in our small town. She has served as a Chamber board member since 2023. Kate is the proud mother of four children—Bo, Kenton, Maggie, and Brooks. She values family, community, and the power of connection, both in business and in life. Her favorite chamber event is Girl's Night Out. She enjoys seeing the women in our community gather and help our local businesses thrive!



# MEET OUR BOARD CONT.



## COURTNEY SANDERS BOARD MEMBER

Courtney is an Edwards County native, spending her younger years in Grayville and then Albion where she attended ECHS. She is a graduate of The Salon Professional Academy of Evansville, Indiana where she studied Cosmetology. Courtney serviced the local area doing makeup and hair for over 13 years! She resides in Albion with her husband Cory and two children, Kentley and Camdyn. She and her husband are owners of the local hardware store, 618 Supply. She has served on the chamber board of directors since 2024 and serves on many different committees within the chamber. Her favorite part of being on the board is promoting our local businesses and helping with events, especially her favorites like Handbag Bingo and Girls Night Out.



## INCOMING BOARD MEMBERS WANTED

The Albion Area Chamber of Commerce is currently looking to fill board member spots for 2026. Our board meets every second Tuesday of the month at 5:30 pm. We discuss matters pertaining to the the Chamber, coordinate events, approve expenses, and occasionally meet with other professionals if they have matters to discuss with the board.

If interested in being nominated as a board member contact us at [albionareachamber@gmail.com](mailto:albionareachamber@gmail.com)







# ALBION AREA CHAMBER of COMMERCE

ONE OF ILLINOIS' OLDEST  
CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

## SUPPORT YOUR CHAMBER

### HOW MUCH?

\$2-\$13 per month

### WHO CAN JOIN?

Anyone!  
Businesses,  
individuals, churches,  
at-home & online  
businesses, etc.

### WHY?

FREE ADVERTISING!  
GET INVOLVED IN YOUR COMMUNITY!  
GET ADDED TO OUR DIRECTORY!  
NEW PROGRAMS TO DRIVE BUSINESS TO YOU!

### HOW?

Message us  
on FB or fill  
out our  
membership  
form online!  
You do not  
need a  
business to  
join!

Current members:  
membership  
invoices go out in  
November

**SCROLL TO READ MORE**

The Albion Area Chamber of Commerce helps support your business!

**JOIN CHAMBER TODAY!**

[albionareachamber.org](http://albionareachamber.org)

# WHY JOIN CHAMBER?

## FREE ADVERTISING

Our FB page reaches thousands of people per post and we will re-share any of our members Facebook posts to our page daily.

Starting in 2026 we will be taking out a weekly ad in the Prairie Post. We will highlight our businesses of the month, upcoming events, and also offer inexpensive advertising slots

## GREAT COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Our goal as a Chamber is to first and foremost promote more business being done in Albion. We will host several events throughout the year to bring dollars to your business. Check our annual schedule!

We also sponsor several events like Artisans Festival, Boo on the Bricks, Breakfast with Santa, our Scholarship program, beautification projects, and much more to help make our community an even better place to live and do business!

## COST

INDIVIDUAL/  
NON-PROFIT \$25

BUSINESS  
W/ LESS  
THAN 50  
EMPL. in EC \$75

FOOD  
TRUCKS \$100

BUSINESS  
W/ MORE  
THAN 50  
EMPL. in EC \$125

BUSINESS  
OUTSIDE EC \$150

We have the lowest  
membership dues in the  
surrounding area!

## WHY NOT?

For as little as \$6.25 per month you can help support good things in your community!