



ALBION AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

# Chamber Chat

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

April - June 2026

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Chamber Board meetings**
  - Apr 7, May 12, June 9
- **Chamber membership meeting**
  - April 9, 12-1PM
  - Farm Bureau Basement
  - **2026:** April 9, June 11, August 13, October 8, December 10
- **Spring Yard Sales**
  - April 25
- **Shop Small Boutique Crawl**
  - May 1 & 2
  - Edwards, Richland, Wabash, Wayne, White, New Harmony
- **America250 Celebration**
  - Friday, July 3
  - Albion Amphitheater
  - 5PM

## Job Fair in response to Champion closure a success!

It's amazing what a big impact a tiny community can make when their back is against the wall. With the recent Champion closure happening in February, we as a Chamber have been encouraged to see how our community has stepped up to care for it's own.

In response the closure, the Chamber board made a quick decision to host a job fair just a week after the announcement of the closure. Within 24 hours of making the decision to host the fair we were able to have made several phone calls, get a flyer out to the public, get several employers on board, and a location set.

The job fair hosted more than 40 employers and 20 plus organizations that could offer aide in the transition for employees. Organizations included FCC, IECC, local churches, free frozen meals donated by the Lumberyard, WADI, The Hope Center, employment and financial services and more.

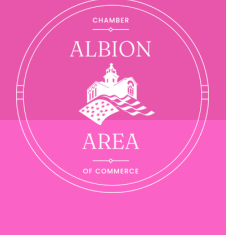
Special thanks to native EC Edward Jones agents Brian Mewes, Kevin Schuh, Abbi Mosson, and Tyler Smith for providing a smoked pork chop lunch to visitors, Wabash Valley Services for smoking the chops, Citizens National Bank and Steve Thompson Country Financial for refreshments. Special thanks to the Fair Board for use of the building and Kate Speir and the Chamber board for organizing the event.

We hosted over 400 guests looking for jobs, with several interviews scheduled the day-of and at least one day-of hire. We are still getting calls of local jobs available and have posted them on our Facebook as they have come in to assist those still looking.



# BUSINESSES OF THE MONTH

ALBION AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



## BUSINESS *of the* MONTH



### MARCH

#### Edwards County Heritage Preservation Society

On a mission to celebrate and preserve the rich heritage of Edwards County's agriculture, history, community, and milestones, both old and new.

Donate or join at

<https://www.edcohps.org/membership>



### APRIL

#### Hooper Auto & Truck Parts (Napa Auto Parts)

Operated by Derek Hooper, a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation Napa store owner. They take pride providing quality parts & exceptional service to customers while maintaining an excellent work environment for employees in this family-owned business.

Visit the shop today at 49 W Main Street, Albion

### MAY

#### Delux Detail

Owned by Sheila Colbert, over the past 7 years in business Delux Detail has provided exceptional interior and exterior vehicle detailing in the area. Sheila stays booked and offers several services. **Book today by calling 618-302-3931 Go to: [deluxdetail.net](http://deluxdetail.net) to see plans & pricing**



### JUNE

#### Fifth Street Beauty & Wellness

Owned and operated by Dionna Roosevelt, Fifth Street Beauty & Wellness provides a relaxing spa experience with a variety of services including massage, facial, waxing, nail, and hair all by appointment only.

Visit the shop today at 5 N 5<sup>th</sup> St, Albion  
Call 618-302-3545 to book.

# WHAT'S NEW?



**Congratulations to Bobe's Pizza on celebrating 4 years in business in Albion on March 13!**

**Congratulations to 618 Supply who will be celebrating 2 years in business on June 1!**

**Date TBD on Facebook for a customer appreciation day.**

**Congratulations to WGH Albion Clinic on their ribbon cutting on March 12!**

**Congratulations to The Hope Center celebrating their 20<sup>th</sup> Year anniversary this spring!**

**Happy 3 year Anniversary to Jenny Hortin and the Prairie Press. We appreciate Jenny for putting out a weekly, informative local paper!**

**Happy 7<sup>th</sup> year Anniversary to Delux Detail in March!**

**Welcome to business Brine & Bloom! Now booking salt room and red light therapy sessions at <https://book.heygoldie.com/brineandbloom>**

**Farewell to Nathan Gentz on the official last day in business at the Watering Can in Albion on March 27<sup>th</sup>. Best of luck in your new chapter!**

**Spring menu out now at Colyer Coffee house! Try drinks like Honey Nut Cheerio Latte, Honey Lavender Latte, Cactus Flower Lotus, and more!**

**Callieco Home Fragrance available at Prairie Albion Antique Mall (Booth #34) and GGA Market. Check out the 5 new fragrances and renamed favorites! Cafe Latte fragrance is now Morning Brew!**

**Hilltop Bakery now serving fresh baked goodies Fridays 11-5pm & Saturdays 8-12pm.**

**Bailey's Bistro now sponsoring AGS & WSGS "Book-It" program with free limited menu items for qualifying students. Certificates issued by the student's teacher.**

# UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.



ALBION AREA  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

# MEMBER MEETING

THURSDAY  
APRIL 9

FARM BUREAU BASEMENT  
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

# UPCOMING EVENTS



# Spring YARD Sale



**SATURDAY  
APRIL 25TH**



GET ON THE MAP AT  
[WWW.ALBIONAREACHAMBER.ORG](http://WWW.ALBIONAREACHAMBER.ORG)

# SCHOLARSHIPS



ALBION AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION



**Two \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded**

**APPLYING STUDENTS MUST HAVE:  
3.0 GPA**

**HISTORY OF VOLUNTEERISM**

**PARENTS MUST BE A CHAMBER MEMBER OR WORK FOR A CHAMBER MEMBER**

**COMPLETE AN ESSAY ON ONE OF THREE TOPICS**



**APPLY HERE**

OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [ALBION.AACHAMBER.ORG](http://ALBION.AACHAMBER.ORG)

**NOW CLOSED**

**Thank you to all of the ECHS students who applied! We have reviewed each application and will reveal our chosen winners on May 8 at the ECHS Awards Ceremony!**

**2027 scholarship applications will be available starting in the Spring of 2027 for any student heading to any college or continuing education program that is a child of a Chamber Member, works for a Chamber Member, or their parent works for a Chamber Member.**



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

# SHOP SMALL

## BOUTIQUE CRAWL

EDWARDS, RICHLAND, WABASH, WAYNE,  
WHITE, NEW HARMONY AND MORE!

FRIDAY

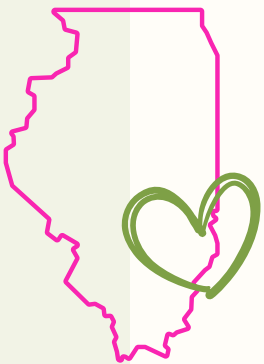
May  
1 & 2

SATURDAY

GRAB THE GIRLS AND FILL UP THE TANK TO ENJOY TWO  
DAYS OF SHOPPING, DINING, AND EXPLORING SOUTH  
EASTERN ILLINOIS BOUTIQUES AND RESTAURANTS AT  
YOUR OWN PACE.

EXPECT DISCOUNTS, GIVEAWAYS, AND FUN!

VIEW MAP OF PARTICIPATING BUSINESSES, THEIR  
STORE HOURS AND SPECIALS AT  
[ALBIONAREACHAMBER.COM](http://ALBIONAREACHAMBER.COM)  
STARTING ON APRIL 25TH



YOU'RE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR THE 1<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL

For interested businesses



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

# SHOP SMALL

## BOUTIQUE CRAWL

FRIDAY & SATURDAY

MAY 1 & 2

EDWARDS, RICHLAND,  
WAYNE, WHITE, WABASH,  
NEW HARMONY AND MORE!

THE ALBION AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INVITES YOUR BUSINESS TO JOIN US FOR THE 1<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL "SHOP SMALL BOUTIQUE CRAWL" HELD ON FRIDAY AND SATURDAY MAY 1 & 2 IN YOUR BUSINESS! WE WILL HEAD UP THE ADVERTISING, MAP CREATION, AND COORDINATION AND ALL YOUR BUSINESS HAS TO DO IS

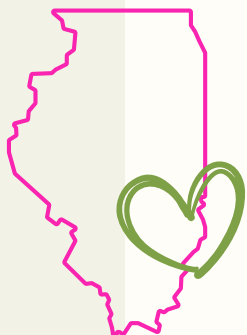
1. SIGN UP ON OUR SITE
2. SHARE INFO IN YOUR STORE AND ON SOCIALS
3. CREATE A PROMOTION OR SPECIAL IN-STORE IF YOU WANT.

WE ENCOURAGE COMMUNITIES AND INDIVIDUAL BUSINESSES TO MAKE THE MOST OF THIS OPPORTUNITY AND TREAT THIS WEEKEND LIKE AN OPEN HOUSE. WOMEN FROM THE SURROUNDING AREAS WILL BE VENTURING OUT FOR A DAY OF EXPLORING NEW BUSINESSES AND SHOPPING SO CREATE A SPECIAL DISCOUNT, HAVE LIGHT REFRESHMENTS, HAVE A GIVEAWAY BASKET IN STORE OR FOR YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY. WE WILL DO ALL THE PLANNING, YOU MAKE IT AS FUN AS YOU WANT AND ENJOY THE ADDED SALES!

COST PER BUSINESS LOCATION IS \$20. THIS WILL GET YOUR BUSINESS ON OUR MAP/KEY THAT WILL BE PUT ON OUR WEBSITE, SHARED TO YOUR LOCAL BUSINESSES TO SHARE WITH CUSTOMERS, AND YOU WILL BE INCLUDED IN ANY PAID ADVERTISING. YOUR BUSINESS WILL NOT BE INCLUDED IN THE MAP OR CORRESPONDANCE IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID. A PAID SLOT GETS YOU 4 LINES ON THE MAP: BUSINESS NAME, SMALL BLURB ABOUT WHAT YOU SELL OR SPECIALS YOUR ARE HAVING THAT WEEKEND, YOUR STORE HOURS, AND ADDRESS. WE WILL TAKE CARE OF THE REST! \*\*WE WILL NOT BE DISTRIBUTING HARD COPIES OF OUR MATERIALS TO YOU BUT WILL PROVIDE PDF'S FOR YOU TO PRINT.

THE AACOC IS ALWAYS LOOKING FOR WAYS TO ENCOURAGE CITIZENS TO SHOP SMALL, DO FUN THINGS IN OUR OWN LITTLE COMMUNITIES, AND CIRCULATE OUR HARD EARNED DOLLARS TO THE SMALL BUSINESSES THAT ARE THE HEART OF OUR COMMUNITIES. WE HOPE THIS EVENT WILL BENEFIT YOU AND BE A REVENUE GENERATING WEEKEND!

QUESTIONS: CONTACT US AT [ALBIONAREACHAMBER@GMAIL.COM](mailto:ALBIONAREACHAMBER@GMAIL.COM)



REGISTRATION DEADLINE

SATURDAY, APRIL 18

SIGN UP & PAY AT  
[ALBIONAREACHAMBER.COM](http://ALBIONAREACHAMBER.COM)

\$20

PER BUSINESS  
LOCATION

The background features a waving American flag in the upper left and several stylized fireworks in red, white, and blue scattered throughout. The text is centered and uses a mix of bold, sans-serif fonts in red and blue.

# Albion's **AMERICA** **250**

**ALBION IL AMPHITHEATER**  
**5:00PM - 10:00PM**  
**FRIDAY, JULY 3, 2026**

LET'S CELEBRATE THE 250<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA!  
~ Schedule of Events ~

Brought to You by the Albion Area Chamber of Commerce  
and Albion Arts Council

5:00PM – 5:45PM VFW Flag Bearers and School Bands  
Lead by Drummers Around the Courthouse Square  
and to the Amphitheater

5:50PM – 6:10PM Re-enactments Paul Collins, Jerry Crisel  
6:15PM – 6:45PM "A Community Choir"  
7:00PM – 10:00PM "Radio Days" Concert

ENJOY  
LOCAL EATERIES  
AND  
FOOD TRUCKS!!!

# STAY IN THE KNOW



## NEW EVENT: SHOP SMALL BOUTIQUE CRAWL!

Mark your calendars! New this year the Chamber will be hosting the Southern Illinois Shop Small Boutique Crawl. The boutique crawl is open to businesses in Edwards, Richland, Wabash, Wayne, White, and New Harmony.

The 'crawl' will take place on Friday and Saturday May 1 & 2. Businesses & interesting in getting on the "map" for the event can sign up and pay on our website, Cost is \$20 per business location for non-members, and free for paid AACOC 2026 Members. Members still have to register to be included.

This will serve as a fundraiser for the AACOC. We will facilitate creating the map and businesses are in charge of making the day as fun as they want inside their own businesses. Patrons can get a car full of friends and drive to the businesses of their choice at their own pace. Businesses are encouraged to offer discounts, giveaways, and refreshments.



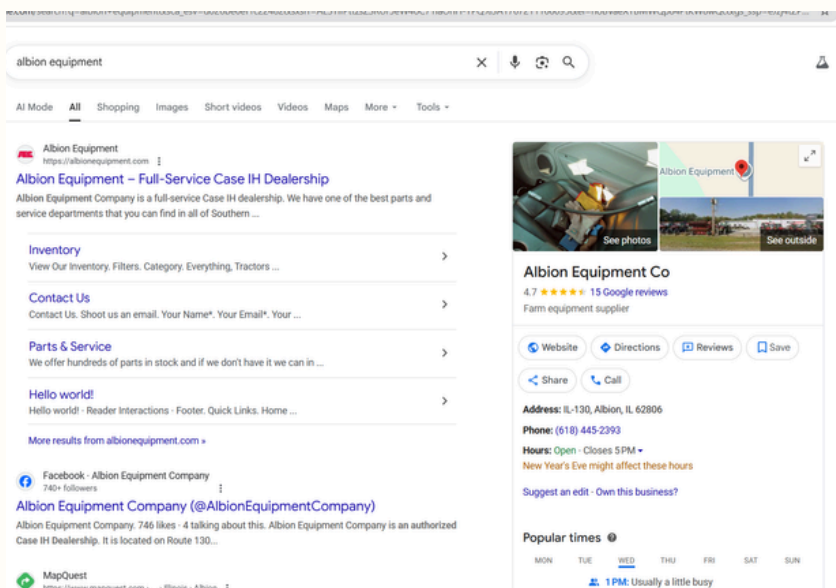
## START YOUR GOOGLE BUSINESS ACCOUNT

We would love to encourage our members to start their Google Business Account in 2026! It is very simple and can be a great way to gain more customers.

When people search for your specific business or your product or service in your area Google will show them your hours, business photos uploaded by you or by customers, reviews, website link, and more.

We would also like to encourage locals to head to your favorite businesses Google pages and upload your photos or leave a positive review. It could be the difference that gets them the next sale!

Instructions for setting up your Google Business page found below.



# SET UP A GOOGLE BUSINESS PROFILE



Setting up your Google Business Profile takes less than 15 minutes and is a great way to take your business to the next level.

Having a Google profile makes your business easier for customers to find your hours, web site, product info and more.

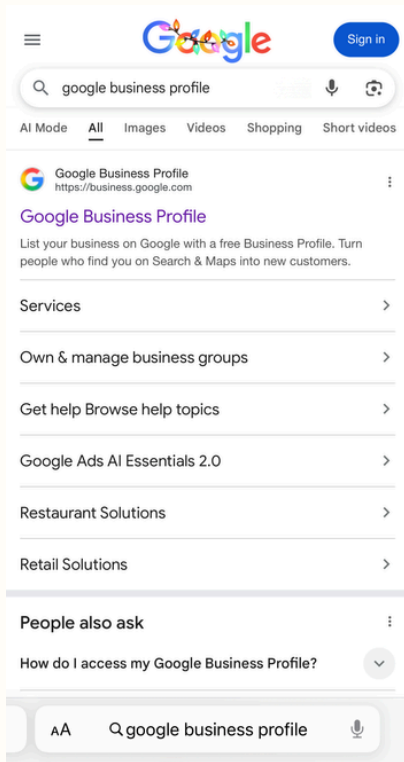
Most customers these days will make the decision whether or not to patronize a business strictly based on the info provided on the Google profile.

Easily finding store hours, menus, reviews, or even pictures of the storefront (especially if they're not sure where they are going) is not only a helpful tool for customers but could mean your next sale.

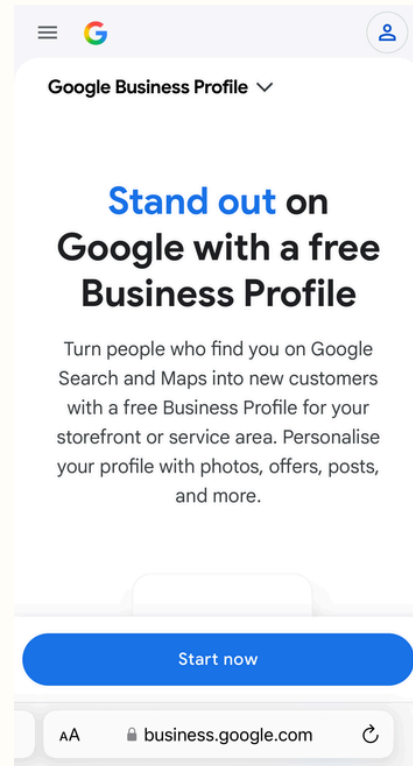
Don't just stop with your business! One easy way to support your fellow business owners is to leave them a positive review or upload photos of their storefront or product to their profile. Its easy to do and takes only a few minutes. See instructions on next page:



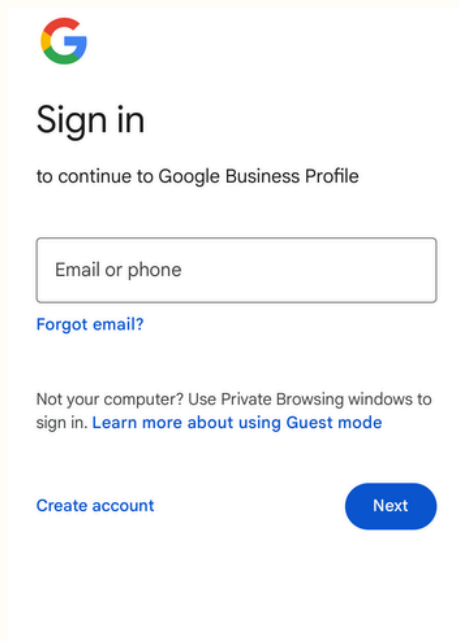
## 1. Search: Google Business Profile



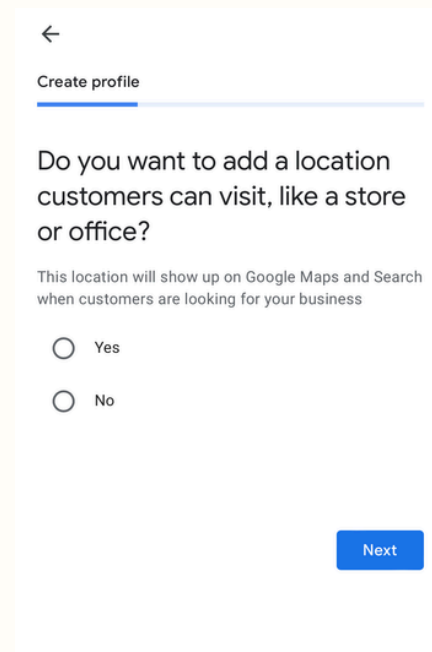
## 2. Follow instructions to set up profile.



## 3. Sign in to your businesses Google account/gmail or create on



## 4. Click through the "next" button until you have completed all prompts





## 5. Add business phone number and web site

←

Create profile

What contact details do you want to show to customers?

Help customers get in touch by including this info on your listing

Next

## 6. Select “Yes” to updates. Google will keep you informed of how many people are searching or you on Google.

Create profile

Get updates about your business

Would you like alerts, notifications, or tips about ways to manage your business on Google?

Yes

No

Next

## 7. Type up an informative, easy to read business description with what you offer and where.

Google Business Pro...

←

Customize profile

Add business description

Let customers learn more about your business by adding a description to your Business Profile on Search, Maps, and other Google services.

[Learn more](#)

Skip Next

## 8. Add storefront, interior, and product/service photos. This helps customers orient themselves on what you offer.

Google Business Pro...

←

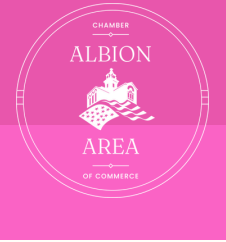
Customize profile

Add a storefront photo

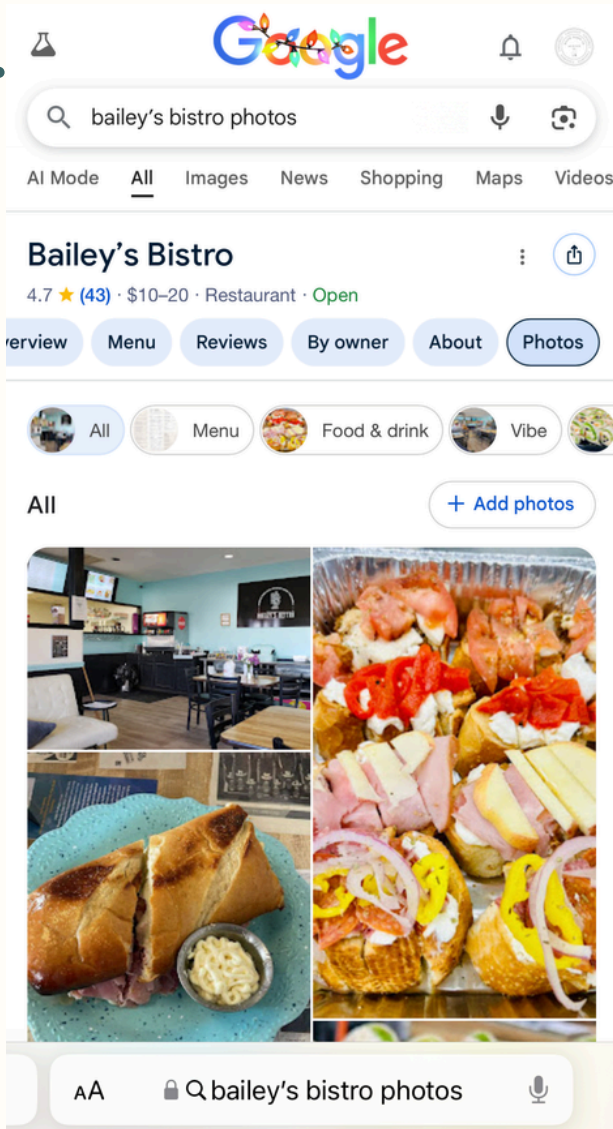
Sharing a recent photo of your business' exterior helps customers identify you in the real world

[Learn more](#)

Next



9.



Type in some of your favorite local businesses and upload your photos to their profile or leave a positive review.

Reviews are most helpful when they are informative. "Bailey's Bistro is the best!" is good but adding "My favorite dish is the Harvest Salad and pizza flight. Service was wonderful. A must try!" is more helpful to future customers.

10.

