

# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

A digital look at your local business community

#keepitmacomb



**Macomb Area**  
Chamber of Commerce  
Macomb, Illinois

**OUR MISSION: TO PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH  
OF THE MACOMB AREA.**

**OUR VISION: TO SERVE AS A CATALYST FOR THE BUSINESS,  
PROFESSIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL COMMUNITY'S COLLECTIVE  
EFFORTS TO ENHANCE THE ECONOMIC CLIMATE  
AND QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL OUR CITIZENS.**

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# COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS

Click here for information and resources

The Macomb Area Chamber of Commerce is currently compiling a list of our local business hours/operations, state and local information, and health notifications to assist you and the business community during this unprecedented pandemic. We will update this list as new information is available. Our staff is working as hard as possible with the resources we have, so if you do not see a business listed, please feel free to contact our office with any information you are able to provide and we would be happy to get them added.

You will also find a list of resources for you and your business. Please note, that we are not government experts, lawyers, or bankers; however, we will certainly do our best to connect you the vital resources that you need at this time. Thank you.

Visit our Website

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## CHAMBER GIFT CERTIFICATES

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### Executive Director Letter

Hello Chamber Members!

As I'm sure you've already heard, the stay-at-home order has been extended through the end of May. While this may not be welcome news to many of you, there have at least been some changes to the way in which many of you can do business. Those considered "non-essential businesses" can now arrange for curbside pickup outside of your businesses, which opens up a lot of opportunities. If you are not already, you need to be establishing or growing your web presence. You can easily set up a website or post items for sale on Facebook; then ship items, deliver them or arrange curbside pickup. While not the ideal way to do business for many of you, it's about the only option you have in these circumstances. If you are selling items online, please send me the details of how you are conducting business and I will add it to our web page.

*Stay Safe  
and  
Healthy*

The Chamber has arranged a Zoom meeting with Senator Jil Tracy and Representative Norine Hammond for **Thursday, May 7 at 10 a.m.** If you would like to attend this meeting, please register [HERE](#). This is a great opportunity to get an update on the state of Illinois during the COVID-19 crisis directly from our area legislators. There will also be time for questions at the end of the meeting. Registration is required in order to receive the Zoom link to this meeting.

I am, as always, looking into new information and resources for you during this stressful time. Change is hard, but I am continually impressed by your adaptability and resourcefulness during this crisis. I always welcome your questions, comments, and concerns and am open to suggestions on how the Chamber can better serve you. Please contact me at any time by emailing [lauren@macombareachamber.com](mailto:lauren@macombareachamber.com).

Take care and stay safe

Lauren Merritt  
Executive Director  
Macomb Area Chamber of Commerce

Email Lauren



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MACC @ 309.837.4855 or  
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## Marketing Director Letter

Hello,

If you are like me you are admittedly taking it all day by day, or even minute by minute as you try to live, work, teach, and play in a world where the information and the rules seem to be changing every single day.

Our schedules, offices, classrooms, churches, workout routines, hobbies and wardrobes no longer look like they once did. And while it is okay to mourn that loss, it also gives us a necessary challenge and a great opportunity to rebound with grace, revamp our lives, and reboot our careers in order to find gratitude in the things that are constant.

A lot has changed, but at the very of core of it, our community is still (and maybe even more so) one that cares about their neighbors. We know that when everyone else labels us as "non-essential" or "Forgottonia," we'll be over in our little corner of the world lifting each other up, supporting one another, and doing it all with a socially distant smile.

So how can you help? Here are a few ideas...

**PLAY  
A PART  
TOGETHER**

# Support Local Businesses Without Leaving Your House

- ✓ Buy gift cards to use later
- ✓ Shop locally online
- ✓ Order food for delivery or takeout from local restaurants
- ✓ Donate online to local charities
- ✓ Rate businesses you love with 5 stars on Google and social media
- ✓ Tip service workers extra
- ✓ Buy now, pick up later – give the business a call, pay for a product, set it aside for later
- ✓ Keep paying for your memberships and subscriptions
- ✓ Ask a business owner what you can do to help
- ✓ Stay positive!

**Bonus points:** Like, share and post on social media; the extra virtual love is much appreciated!



In our office, our first return to normalcy will be to return to a monthly newsletter to help keep you informed, while remaining respectful of your growing email list. It will still include all the relevant news you need and we invite you to submit your updates, flyers, resources, and more FREE of charge so that we can help you reach others and stay connected as you stay safe and stay inside. We invite you to follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for the latest news for you and your business.

We are a resilient community and we know you are still dedicated to your professions, so we are still sending email blasts, promoting our members on social media, and helping you to market your business in new and innovative ways.

Please send all content, questions or concerns to me via email and I will be happy to connect you with the resources you need as soon as I can. Thank you.

Be well and be well to others.

Shay Holland  
Marketing Director

Email Shay



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## The City of Macomb

The City of Macomb is actively working with several local agencies and state authorities to provide the clearest and most up-to-date information for all citizens. To find a list of resources, visit their website.

City of Macomb Mayor Mike Inman is also routinely sharing COVID-19 updates via a series of YouTube videos which can be viewed on Facebook and via the City of Macomb YouTube channel.



[City of Macomb - Website](#)

[City of Macomb - YouTube](#)

PRESS RELEASE – April 20, 2020



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact Information:

**Mayor's Office - City Of Macomb**

309-833-2558

[mayor@macomb.com](mailto:mayor@macomb.com)

**Macomb Area Convention & Visitors Bureau**

**Heritage Days Committee**

309-833-1315

[info@visitforgottonia.com](mailto:info@visitforgottonia.com)

**MACOMB'S 38<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL HERITAGE DAYS FESTIVAL CANCELLED**

(Macomb, IL) – After several meetings and discussions the City of Macomb, the Macomb Area Convention & Visitors Bureau and the Macomb Heritage Days Committee have halted plans to move forward with Macomb's traditional Heritage Days celebration and put the event on hold for the 2020 season. This was not an easy decision as Heritage Days has become a signature event for Macomb and the area over the past 38 years. One that annually draws visitors from around the country back to their hometown for reunions and homecomings. However, it was for that reason among others that the decision was collectively made to cancel the event for 2020.

In light of the severity and uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was overwhelmingly concluded that the safety, health and well-being of our citizens and the community were of paramount importance. The City of Macomb, the MACVB and the Heritage Days Committee have every intention during this time, to focus efforts on Heritage Days 2021. They do this with the promise to return next year bigger, stronger and better than ever to give the community and visitors the celebration they will certainly need and will have so deservedly earned.



**McDonough District Hospital**

McDonough District Hospital is working with the McDonough County Health Department, McDonough County Emergency Services, and Disaster Agency during the COVID-19 crisis

For the latest updates and specifics on drive thru screening hours, elective operation updates, and health safety practices please view the MDH website below.

MDH.org

## 10 things you can do to manage your health at home

### If you have possible or confirmed COVID-19:

1. **Stay home** from work, school, and away from other public places. If you must go out, avoid using any kind of public transportation, ridesharing, or taxis.



7. **Wash your hands often** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.



2. **Monitor your symptoms** carefully. If your symptoms get worse, call your healthcare provider immediately.



8. As much as possible, **stay** in a specific room and **away from other people** in your home. Also, you should use a separate bathroom, if available. If you need to be around other people in or outside of the home, wear a facemask.



3. **Get rest and stay hydrated.**



9. **Avoid sharing personal items** with other people in your household, like dishes, towels, and bedding.



4. If you have a medical appointment, **call the healthcare provider** ahead of time and tell them that you have or may have COVID-19.



10. **Clean all surfaces** that are touched often, like counters, tabletops, and doorknobs. Use household cleaning sprays or wipes according to the label instructions.



5. For medical emergencies, call 911 and **notify the dispatch personnel** that you have or may have COVID-19.



6. **Cover your cough and sneezes.**



Please go to [www.cdc.gov/covid19-symptoms](http://www.cdc.gov/covid19-symptoms) for information on COVID-19 symptoms.



CS 315822-A 03/07/2020

For more information: [www.cdc.gov/COVID19](http://www.cdc.gov/COVID19)





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## Business Assistance

Under the direction of Governor JB Pritzker, the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity is working with partners to launch emergency assistance programs for Illinois small businesses. These initiatives include Illinois Small Business Emergency Loan Fund, and Downstate Small Business Stabilization Program, Small Business Administration Disaster loans, Economic Injury Disaster Loans Advance Grants, and Paycheck Protection Programs.



We will continue to email the latest business resource updates to you as they are available. Please note, we urge you to research your options carefully; however, note that many of these resources are time sensitive and require applications be submitted by set state and federal deadlines.

For business assistance resources, please visit the following sites.

[Macomb Area Chamber](#)

[Illinois.gov](#)

[Small Business Administration](#)

## April Member Renewals



Thank you to our members who have continued their annual investment with the Macomb Area Chamber of Commerce in the month of April 2020. Your support of the local business community is critical, now more than ever, as we look forward to working with you to serve as a platform that provides opportunities for growth and development for your organization and the Macomb area.

- [The Center for Youth and Family Solutions](#)
- [Spoon River College Community Outreach Center](#)
- [Hy-Vee](#)
- [Minus Muffler and Towing](#)
- [Haymakers - Macomb](#)
- [Pet Supplies Plus](#)

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Paula Knight, Real Estate Broker, Century 21 Purdum-Epperson, Inc. :  
The Legacy Theater  
ServiceMaster Cleaning & Restoration:  
TimbukTech Inc.  
Peoria International Airport - Fly PIA  
Ladner and Jain Orthodontics, LLP  
King Family Chiropractic

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## Manage Your Business Remotely in Times of Uncertainty

Google is hosting a FREE virtual Livestream event for small businesses and non-profits on May 6 from 8-9 am.

Discover tools, tips and resources to help you manage your business remotely during the COVID-19 crisis. Learn how to update critical business information online to keep customers informed, and how to host virtual meetings and events. We'll also share the latest resources from Google and other partners to help support small businesses.

[Register Here](#)

## Grow with Google

### LIVESTREAM EVENT

### Manage Your Business Remotely in Times of Uncertainty

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## Western Illinois University

Western Illinois University is continuing to closely monitor the Coronavirus. This is an evolving situation, and updates are available from the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), including updated Travel Notices for countries with community transmission. The University's Pandemic Preparedness and Response Committee is following guidelines from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), and national, regional, and local medical providers. They have set up their own webpage, which is intended to provide information about COVID-19 and the University's response and actions. Visit the university website for more



information.

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## Spoon River College

### A Message from President Curt Oldfield

As we continue to deal with the impact of Coronavirus (COVID-19), I want to remind everyone that the health and safety of our students, faculty, staff, and guests remains our primary concern. This is an unprecedented situation for the country, state, communities, and our college.



- As of March 23, Spoon River College will offer alternative instruction for the rest of the spring semester. Faculty will contact students about individual course instructional plans to complete the spring semester.
- Due to the shelter in place guidance from Governor J.B. Pritzker, Spoon River College will remain operational but closed to students and the public.

**Please review our FAQs section for the latest updates. This FAQs section will be time and date stamped, so check back often.**

SRC FAQ



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BY EMAIL TO: [INFO@MACOMBAREACHAMBER.COM](mailto:INFO@MACOMBAREACHAMBER.COM)  
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Local Dining

To ensure that the community has access to our local restaurants offering delivery, carry out, and curb side pick up during this time, The City of Macomb Downtown Development Office is currently listing restaurant menus within the Macomb area on their Facebook page. We encourage you to eat local and #keepinmacomb, while also practicing social distancing appropriately. Please consider continuing to support our local restaurants and all local businesses in whatever way you can in the coming weeks and months.



All additional menu pictures can be sent to [kterry@cityofmacomb.com](mailto:kterry@cityofmacomb.com)

The City of Macomb is temporarily changing a liquor ordinance in the midst of the coronavirus outbreak. Macomb officials announced businesses can temporarily sell original packaged liquor through curbside pick-up, carry-out, delivery and drive-thru. This move comes while Illinois is under a stay-at-home order and restaurants and bars are not allowed to offer dine-in services due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Officials said workers selling or delivering alcohol and customers must be at least 21 years old and provide photo ID for proof of age. The temporary measure will continue while dine-in services are shuttered in Illinois

### Menus

Macomb resident and WIU Associate Vice President of Student Services, John Biernbaum has created a public Facebook page called McDonough County Shelter in Place Restaurant Daily Specials. This serves as a place for McDonough County restaurants to post daily lunch and dinner specials for the community. IT has also become a popular place where customers can post pictures of all of their meals as they eat local.



### Local Restaurants

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### Census 2020

The City of Macomb is launching an intensive media campaign to draw attention to the significance of the 2020 Census. The media campaign will emphasize the critical role that participation by all McDonough County residents plays in an accurate Census count for the community they live in.

Join the campaign by sharing these videos and information with your friends, co-workers, and family to make sure they are counted. Everyone counts no matter their race, gender, religion, or income level.

Be Counted!

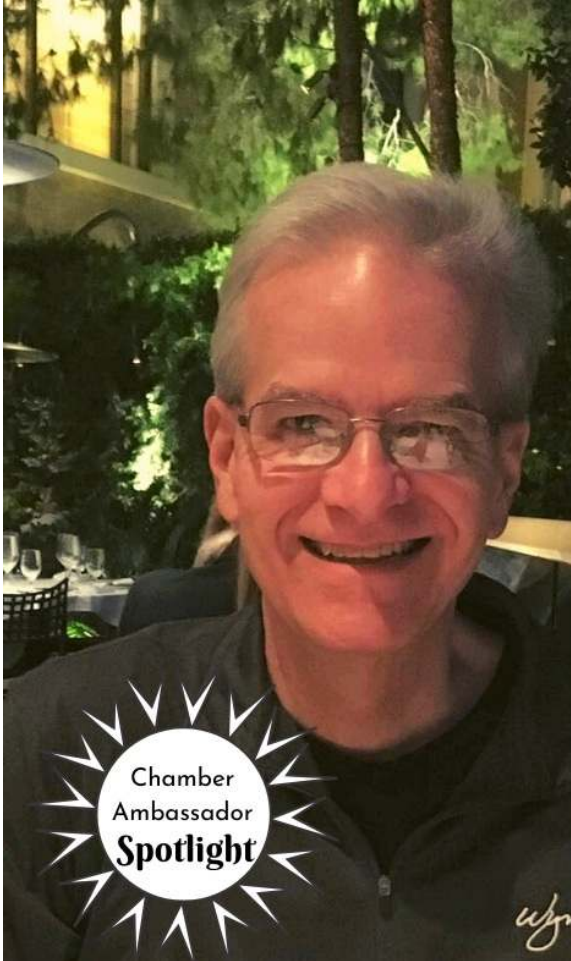


Take the Census

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## Ambassadors

You may have heard us refer to our "Chamber Ambassadors" several times at previous events, on social media, and in our directory. These are our group of business professional volunteers who promote and advocate for the importance of the Macomb Area Chamber of Commerce as part of a vital community. You will see them hosting our monthly Business Before/After Hours, attending ribbon cuttings, visiting Chamber members, and being the ultimate example of how to put Chamber initiatives into practice. Who are the real people behind those shiny, silver name tags? Allow us to shine some light on the this month's featured Ambassador with our Ambassador Spotlight.



## Chuck Laird

Chuck is a lifelong resident of Macomb with his wife Kim and Cairn Terrier Ricky. In addition to his role as a Chamber Ambassador, he is a Past President and current Chamber Board member, Macomb Area Crimestoppers President, Park N' Cruise Chairperson, 2019 MDH Festival of Trees Co-Chair, MAEDCO member, and former Bridgeway Board Chairperson.

He is also a "car guy" and pool player.

In his spare time, he is a buyer in the corporate office at Farm King Supply. Prior to that, he was co-owner of Chapman's Book & Supply. He also opened and managed Kirby Risk Electrical Supply for six and half years.

Macomb is a great place to live and work! Like all communities, we have our challenges but we also have the best people to overcome them! It's critical that we focus on the positive and always put our best foot forward!

Chamber  
Ambassador  
**Spotlight**



## Let's Get Social:



Facebook.com/macombchamber



Instagram.com/macombareachamber

## Look for the Helpers Campaign

We know that you it's easy to get bogged down by the doom and gloom right now, so we're rolling out a new way for you to view the good happening right here in your community. Look for the Helpers will show you daily all the ways we still love to live, work, and play safely right here in Macomb. So delight in seeing your neighbors virtually and celebrate all the ways we as a community are still finding our joy, because that can't be canceled.



Facebook

Instagram



**Macomb Area**  
Chamber of Commerce  
*Macomb, Illinois*