



May *NEWS* from Chamber President Wendy Kernan

Finding the Opportunity

If 3 months ago someone would have suggested what the world was going to look like today with the stay home and shelter in place we would have laughed, even joked about what a crazy idea that is, but here we are with round 2 in place. No dentists, no hair salons, no work, no nothing but home projects, home crafts, and home school.

If you look at your email, and assuming it looks like mine you have companies reaching out with wishes for health, safety, and oh yes offers and discounts. Lots of companies, lots of promises of how to help navigate in this “new world”. Why?

Well. with every crisis there is opportunity to emerge stronger, more creative and for your business to have a more loyal, engaged customer base. Here are some examples that hopefully you can use to emerge stronger and have those customers that are your raving fans.

1. **Care for Your Customers** – This will be different for each business, the key is to find a way to help alleviate stress for your customers and make them feel safe, at ease and taken care of. How do you do that while serving them from afar? It may be opening the door, a follow up call to check for satisfaction, or a little note or something special in their order they did not expect. Go the extra mile to meet and exceed their expectation and you will build customer loyalty way beyond this crisis.
2. **Engage and Connect with Your Community** – How can you and your business stay engaged and connected in this world of social distances? Think who can you partner with? How can you leave lasting impressions? One simple idea is to nominate heroes in your community and find a way to honor them. We have several from nurses, to front line workers, policeman ... Maybe it is you and your family along with your business making masks to donate, meals to the nurses working 3rd shifts, or something special to those homebound with no contact (something special you can donate to be delivered with their meals on wheels?). The list is endless once you start thinking.
3. **Adopt Innovative Solutions** – This is where I see business all around struggling and others are genius and selling out of their product. (I mean who would have thought take home paint kits would be sold out and you have to get your order in a week and half prior?) Here are some basic questions to help lift your business:
 - a. *How can you expand your market?* Example: Distilleries are now making hand sanitizer; other businesses are expanding to sterilization and disinfection for building entrances.

Continues on Page 2

May 2020 Events

Luncheon

May 13th

OSHA Update
Webinar



Scheduled Luncheons

June 10, 2020
Mt. Zion Update

July 8, 2020
Cybersecurity



Rescheduled Events

July 16, 2020
Annual Meeting &
Awards Banquet

Mt. Zion Chamber of Commerce
1400 Mt. Zion Parkway
Mt. Zion, IL 62549
217-864-2526

Hours: Working Remotely

2020 Calendar of Events

Mt. Zion Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting & Awards Banquet - July 16, 2020

2019-2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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MAY LUNCHEON

Due to the Shelter in Place order, our usual second Wednesday luncheon date for May is on May 13, 2020. It is a **free** Lunch 'n Learn webinar at 12 noon that you can either call into or log into. RSVP's please; see the details on last page of this newsletter.

NEW WEBSITE DIRECTORY

Visit our new website at www.mtzionchamber.org. The member directory has alphabetic or category listings along with a Search capability. After you click on a business or organization name, you see their contact information as well as a map showing the location.

President's Message continued from page 1

The question to ask is, what market is similar to yours that will give you a new revenue source.

- a. *What new ways can you deliver your product or service?* In the new day of curb side pickup and online ordering how can you take it to the next level? Of course, there are Zoom meetings, WebEx s, Facebook Live, the list is endless. There are so many ways to have your customers still interact and browse with your business. Take FaceTime Browse to the next level and WOW your customers. (Can anyone say fashion show? Or Zoom Happy Hour?)
- b. *Who can you partner with?* Decatur businesses have joined forces and have a FB page "Support Decatur Small Business". Each business list their hours, what specials they have, etc.... Let's keep thinking out of the box, could a restaurant pair up with a grocery store for prepared meals? Could a florist and home décor or trinket place pair up? Absolutely.

The key always come back to engagement. Get the word out about you and your business. Continue to strive higher to reach your customers plus new customers that are not being served. There is not a one-size fits all solution, so try a few of these and talk to others. Remember there is help available, engage with your accountant and banker. Make sure you are taking advantage of solutions that are right for your business.

Your Chamber President,
Wendy J Kernan

Mt. Zion Expo & Taste Cancelled May 30, 2020

This year's Mt. Zion Expo & Taste has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 crisis. Originally, it was scheduled for March 14th and was then postponed until May 30, 2020. These are difficult times for all. We want to thank all our sponsors and exhibitors who had signed up to be part of this year's Expo & Taste; refund checks have been mailed to those who had paid for their sponsorship or booth. We hope you will be part of the 2021 Expo & Taste, which will be on Saturday, March 13, 2021.



Member Spotlight



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— *Del's Popcorn in Mt. Zion at 100 Debby Drive. Del's has been proudly popping for over 85 years. And they are still offering your favorites - popcorn, candy, fudge, nuts and more Monday-Wednesday-Friday 10-1 for curbside service. Call 864-9888 or pop over to delspopcornshop.com today and pick up the perfect gift for Mom or Grandma today! Del's Popcorn Shop will be open Saturday, May 9, for Mother's Day business. They do plan on making chocolate covered strawberries, but highly recommend customers pre-order. During the COVID-19 Shelter in Place, Del's Popcorn Shop is operating with limited staff but are still able to offer all their products for curbside pickup, local delivery, or shipping.*

NEWS BULLETIN

Majors Gregory and Carla Voeller – Corps Officers
229 W. Main Street
Decatur Illinois 62523 (217) 428- 4672



DOING THE
MOST GOOD™

Contact Kyle Karsten – Director of Development & Community Relations
kyle.karsten@usc.salvationarmy.org

News for immediate release

4/30/2020

Giving Tuesday Event – May 5, 2020 Supports The Salvation Army

Each year Giving Tuesday offers everyone around the world a chance to unite and act selflessly as we support the causes we care about by giving what we can.

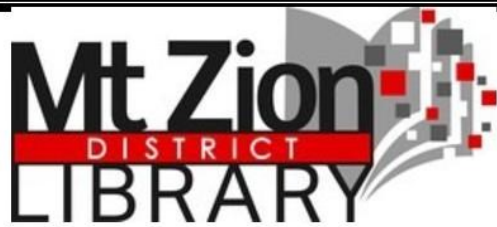
May 5th is Giving Tuesday & we need your help to spread the word to our community. Save the date & join millions around the world who will be giving to The Salvation Army's Mission. Donations from our Decatur Supporters will stay local and support the Decatur Programs during this pandemic and as we move through 2020.

Mail donations to Salvation Army 229 W. Main Street Decatur, IL 62523 or go to our website at www.sadecatur.org. Thank you. Together, we do the most good.



Thank you to our Local Media Partners





Hello Fellow Chamber Members,

These are trying times for all of us and I hope you are all adapting and staying well. Mt. Zion Library was to be the Exhibitor at our April Chamber Luncheon which was held virtually because of our current stay at home order. Since I was not able to promote the library in person, I have been given the opportunity to reach you via our monthly newsletter. I greatly appreciate this opportunity to share why the library is such an important part of our community.

Each month we have thousands of people come through our doors. They come in looking for the latest book in the series they are reading, a book on how to help their child overcome their fear of the dark, a book that is worth 3 AR points so their school age child can complete their reading requirement, and so much more. But, books are not what we are all about. We provide internet service for those that do not have internet at home—and we have thousands in our community who do not have it at home; we provide copy and fax services for a nominal fee; we notarize documents; we laminate;; we provide scanning services; we offer all kinds of programs for all ages; we have the area local papers for you to read; we have dozens of magazines in print and 100 available digitally; also available digitally are thousands of books, audiobooks, movies and music. Digital is what has gotten many of our library users through the past 6 weeks since we were mandated to close our doors.

But, we will reopen, as I hope all of you will as well if you have had to close your doors.

When we reopen, we will all be have safeguards in place in order to keep our customers, users, and staff safe and we will try to resume offering our services as quickly as possible.

Every summer the library offers a Summer Reading Program for all ages and this year will be no different. Our young and school age children benefit greatly from this program as it keeps them engaged and encourages them to read for enjoyment. The kids get so excited about their prizes when they reach their weekly goals. Teens and adults who participate each year look forward to the prizes provided by local businesses. Everyone who participates is rewarded with a sense of accomplishment and enjoyment along with fun prizes.

And, I now come to my pitch...if any of you have any items such as gift cards/certificates that you would like to donate as prizes, please contact me at director@mtzion.lib.il.us. This helps out the library, is great PR for you, and gets people from the community in your door to see what you have to offer.

I look forward to seeing you soon at the library and at future Chamber events.

Grateful to be part of this wonderful community,

Maria Dent

Mt. Zion District Library Director

Impact of COVID-19 Survey

On April 28th I sent out the following survey; if you wish to still participate in it, send your responses to mtzionilchamber@gmail.com:

The Mt. Zion Chamber of Commerce would like to help get your business information to the membership and the community regarding hours of operation, if you have closed, when you will you reopen, and other ways the COVID-19 virus has affected your business. Please participate in this short survey:

1. How has your business or organization been impacted by the COVID-19 crisis?
2. Is your business open or closed?
3. If open, how has your services to your customers/clients or modes of operation changed during the Shelter in Place?
4. If open, what are your hours?
5. If you have been closed, what date do you hope to do a partial or full open?
6. What else would you like your customers/clients to know?
7. Can I share your information in our newsletter, website, Facebook page, and/or media like the Mt. Zion Region News?

Here are some of the replies they agreed I could share with you that I have received so far:

Crawford's Pizza and Pub has had to close our dining rooms and been unable to sell alcohol or run our gaming machines. They are open but have decreased our hours of operation slightly to avoid payroll during slower periods of the day. Crawford's Pizza and Pub is still operating delivery as usual but our pickup has changed to curbside only. Sunday-Thursday 10:30am-9pm, Friday & Saturday 10:30 a.m. -11 p.m. They deliver ALL DAY 7 days a week and they have the capacity to fulfill orders of any size.

Illinois Audio unfortunately due to all dine in restaurants, bars and grills, and inside concert venues being closed, they are at a standstill and unable to work. They have also been affected by all outdoor concert venues pushing their shows until later in June has hurt them. Illinois Audio is open. Once things get opened back up then we can get back to normal, they would love to talk to you and help you advance your entertainment schedule.

Decatur Computers, Inc. has been impacted some. The time and material work has slowed by about 50%. They are open M-F 8:30 to 5:00. Not much change to the services to their customers/clients or modes of operation during the Shelter in Place. Some customers just don't allow us to come onsite. There are a lot of COVID-19 email and phone scams going around right now. Decatur Computers, Inc. are here if you need remote workers setup.

Unique Boutique & Spa said in a sad way...UB Salon has been hit hard. They are deemed non-essential as a full-service salon so they have been closed since March 20, 2020. They hope to reopen June 1st if the Governor is ready to take action. Erica Alford is sad they can't be with you at this time. As a stylist for 22 years, she says she loves helping others and making them feel better about themselves. "Can't wait to see you all very soon."

David J. Clark State Farm Insurance Agency, Inc. are working from office and remotely by telephone. They are open 8:30 to 5:00 by telephone; then after hours, from our home office. The office lobby is closed other than drop off. The David J. Clark State Farm Insurance Agency, Inc. says to please call 24/7. Someone will assist.

New Hope Animal Outreach has not able to have any large fundraising events. They are still offering our services; Pet Food Bank, Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Release Program for the community's feral cats, & our Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Program for Low-Income people. Their Pet Food Bank is now a drive-thru instead of clients coming into the building to shop for their pet's supplies. The Pet Food Bank is on the 2nd & 4th Saturdays of the month from 10 a.m. to noon at 2919 N. Oakland Avenue. New Hope Animal Outreach's other services are by appointment only. They are here to help those that are struggling in these unprecedented times. Feel free to reach out to them via their Facebook page, email newhopeanimaloutreach@gmail.com, or by calling 217-853-2072.

Decatur Orthopedic Center, in compliance with Governor Pritzker, both local hospitals stopped allowing elective surgeries, although that is scheduled to start again on May 11, 2020. Due to that halt on surgery, they are continuing to see patients in the office and offer them other non-surgical options for pain relief: anti-inflammatories, injections etc. Decatur Orthopedic Center is open M-W-Th. 8am-5pm and Tues-Fri. 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Their daily patient load did decline somewhat especially with the older population that doesn't want to be in public at all. They do ask that only the patient go back to an exam room, unless they are in need of assistance or need someone to listen in.

Subway in Mt. Zion has seen business slow down a little. Mt. Zion Subways' hours are 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. at 1580 N. Street. and Hwy. 121 and 1495 W. Main Street. They are offering online ordering through their website or through DoorDash or Grubhub. At the store on Hwy. 121, customers can come through the drive-thru or they can come in and order and take it to go.

Crown Toyota-Scion are by appointment only in sales. They are open 8-5 Monday-Saturday. Service and parts are open from 7-3 Monday - Friday, Saturday 7-12. They are using the 6 ft. rule everywhere. Sanitation is priority everywhere. There are hand cleaning stations by every door. Crown Toyota-Scion follows all rules put out by State of Illinois. We are open in sales "by appointment only" but it is a very simple process to set an appointment. You also can go online at [Mileschevy.com](https://www.mileschevy.com). Once online you can go to SHOP.CLICK.DRIVE. You can actually purchase an automobile online from home. We handle the financing, and we can deliver the car to your doorstep or at the dealership.

Gateway Foundation are open and have moved all of their outpatient programs to virtual. They have open beds and can admit clients who need help for substance use. They have a 24-hour call center for calls. Weekday admission only- by appt. access 217-685-4197 for 7am-9pm screenings. Gateway Foundation's residential programs are open for admittance, and they are testing for COVID-19 upon intake. They have open access for all insurance types, including the uninsured.

DECATURHOMES.COM



Jim Cleveland
217-433-1144
Download my app:
getmobile.remax.com/JimCleveland



Taylor Corrie
217-519-0393
Download my app:
getmobile.remax.com/TaylorCorrie



Andrea Cramer
217-520-1306
Download my app:
getmobile.remax.com/AndreaCramer



Joe Teague
217-433-3768
Download my app:
getmobile.remax.com/JoeTeague



Kim Platt
Transaction Manager



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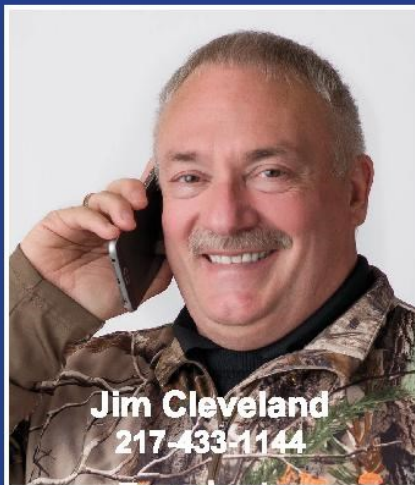
151 E. Decatur Street • Decatur, IL 62521
(Office) 217-428-9500

(Cell) 217-433-1144

JimCleveland@remax.net

DecaturHomes.com

Each Office Independently Owned & Operated



Jim Cleveland

217-433-1144

Team leader



Taylor Corrie
Licensed Partner
217-519-0393



Andrea Cramer
Licensed Partner
217-520-1306



For more information about our properties, call Jim 217-433-1144

Address	Details	Price
MLS #		
Lot 2 Greenhill Rd	1.446 acres residential building lot/fully treed	\$15K 6184287
1333 N Gullick Ave	NEW PRICE! 3 bdr/1 bth/1000 sq feet/ranch/replacement windows	Low \$20's 6199039
24 South Dr.	2bdr/1bth/formal dining room/updated roof and furnace	Upper \$30's 6198273
1576 W Decatur St.	3bdr/1 1/2 bth/1.5 story home West Decatur/Beautiful kitchen	Low \$70's 6199032
285 E Broadway Argenta	3bdr/1 bth/RANCH/Eat-In kitchen/HVAC 2019/Roof 2018	Mid \$70's 6199046
81 Glenview Dr	NEW LISTING! 3 bdr/1 bth/South Shores/Tons of updates all In 2020	Mid \$70's
6201133		
1530 W Wood St	4 bdr/3 bth 2 story BRICK home/West Decatur/fireplace	Upper \$70's 6199452
605 W Macon St.	NEW LISTING! Multi-family/7 units/newer roof & water heater/sold as-is	Mid \$80's 6201500
226 Highland Dr.	2bdr/1.5bth/2.5car garage/1/2 acre fenced lot/fireplace	Upper \$80's 6198400
515 Park Dr. Mt Zion	NEW LISTING! 3bdr/1 bth/HVAC replaced 2019/Fireplace/Fenced yard	Low \$100's 6200818
2366 S Lost Bridge Rd.	3bdr/2bth/2car garage/hardwood floors/updated HVAC	Mid \$110's 6194620
2174 Ravina Park Ct.	5bdr/3bth/2,800+ SF/2-Story/lg. rooms/scrnd patio/cul de sac	Upper \$110's 6185206
404 N Summit Ave.	3bdr/2bth/1car(2car tandem) garage/beautiful woodwork	Mid \$110's 6197345
4700 E Bentonville Rd	4bdr/3bth/2 car garage/replacement windows/1/2 acre lot	Mid \$120's 6199279
515 Greenbrier Ln, Forsyth	NEW PRICE! 5bdr/3.5bth/3car gar./hrdwd flrs/gorgeous kit.	Upper \$320's 6195782
17940 Lakeview Dr, Weldon	3bdr/3bth/4.5 car gar./5.75 acres/hardwood floors	Upper \$330's 6198559



Kim Platt
Transaction Manager
217-428-9500



Diana Kirby
Listing Manager
217-428-9500



getmobile.remax.com/JimCleve

MZCC Lunch 'n Learn

OSHA Update

May 13, 2020 at 12:00 p.m.



This free Lunch 'n Learn is presented by Barry Schwalbe, an authorized OSHA instructor for Richland Community College. Mr. Schwalbe has a chemistry degree from Eastern Illinois University and an MBA from the University of Illinois. He is a Certified Hazardous Materials Manager (CHMM) and an OSHA authorized instructor for General Industry and Construction.

OBJECTIVES

Update on Current OSHA Topics:

- Keeping the Workplace Safe from Bloodborne Pathogens (e.g., COVID-19)
- Current OSHA Emphasis Programs



Join us on May 13th for a 30-minute Lunch 'n Learn webinar. Eat your lunch during, before, or after the webinar and attend the webinar at your work or remote location. Please RSVP to me at mtzionilchamber@gmail.com by Tuesday, May 12th so we know who will be in attendance.

To prepare:

Zoom will be used for this webinar. There is a Zoom app for your iPhone or Android you can install. If you want to prepare your computer for the webinar, please click on this link, download, and install it: <https://richland.zoom.us/j/99795944822?pwd=WnNoak5ma1A3YitwT04zN21UUDBuUT09&status=success>. After it downloads, click on the downloaded .exe file and Run it to install it. Using this app on your computer or smartphone will allow you to see the PowerPoint screens that will be used during the presentation. Optionally, you can call 1 312 626 6799 and listen to the presentation.

When asked for the Meeting ID and Password use:

Meeting ID: 997 9594 4822

Password: 223735

[Optional idea to support local restaurants: Order and pick up your lunch from a local restaurant.]