

## CONGRATULATIONS 2017 HONOREES!

The Clayton Chamber of Commerce is proud to recognize Brian Bjorkman, The Ritz-Carlton, St. Louis and the Clayton Century Foundation for their outstanding achievements, contributions and commitment to Clayton. We are extremely proud of their accomplishments! Their successes contribute to the success and quality of life for all of us.

### Business Person of the Year: Brian Bjorkman

Brian Bjorkman is Executive Vice President and Regional President of St. Louis for Busey Bank, a \$5.4 billion bank headquartered in Champaign, Illinois (as of September 30, 2017). Brian is passionate, committed and dedicated to the success of his customers, colleagues and fellow community members. Brian and his team understand the benefits healthy businesses provide our community and work diligently to help the dreams of those businesses become a reality.

Brian was born and raised in Granite City, Illinois. He was crowned homecoming king and awarded "best smile." He attended Drake University where he earned his bachelor's degree in Finance and, being the born leader he is, served as captain of the soccer team.

Following graduation, Brian started his career in banking at Boatmen's Bank. From there, he served as President, Commercial Lending of Bank Midwest (fka Founders Bank) and also for Pulaski Bank until its merger with Busey Bank in 2016. He currently leads

the St. Louis Commercial Lending team as Regional President.

Brian met his wife, Kerry, during their freshman year at Drake University and were married in 1995. They are the proud parents of Sophie (20), Emma (17), Meg (14) and Molly (12).

*Continued Page 12*



### Cornerstone Award: Clayton Century Foundation



CLAYTON CENTURY FOUNDATION  
*ours to build, ours to share*

The Clayton Century Foundation (CCF) is a nonprofit entity that serves as a partner to the City of Clayton. Organized in 2008, is a first-time 501(c)3 umbrella organization that aims to inspire a high bar of excellence through private investment in Art, History, Parks and Sustainability.

Early priorities included restoring the historic Civil War-era Hanley House, creating an historical community record and celebrating the City's Centennial in 2013. CCF works closely with the Board of Aldermen and City staff to identify projects and programs that meet community needs *Continued Page 15*

### Excellence in Retail/Service:



THE RITZ-CARLTON®  
ST. LOUIS

Shortly after The Ritz-Carlton, St. Louis was announced as the recipient of the Chamber's 2017 Excellence in Retail/Service honoree they were also announced as one of only two Missouri hotels to be included in the Condé Nast Traveler 2017 Readers' Choice Awards. Winners of the Readers' Choice Awards represent the top destinations, lodgings and modes of transportation *Continued Page 3*

## EXPLORE SCANDINAVIAN CAPITALS

### August 25 – September 3, 2018

We invite you to join us on our exploration of Scandinavia's smart, modern cities and untamed natural beauty of the north. We start our journey in Copenhagen, a city that offers a perfect mix of playful spirit to stunning architectural design, from the royal castles to the pretty canals and uniquely shaped brick buildings. Visit Oslo a city that grew from sprawling country town into the sophisticated metropolis it is today. Surrounded by vast archipelago, Stockholm is a true Nordic beauty, where modern city shines next to the historic old town. Then we are on to Helsinki, one of Europe's most handsome and captivating cities.

*Continued Page 5*





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Delivery - Catering

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From the KM team:

## CONGRATULATIONS BRIAN BJÖRKMAN!

BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR

KELLY MITCHELL

**THE RITZ-CARLTON, ST. LOUIS**  
INSPIRES LIFE'S MOST MEANINGFUL  
JOURNEYS WITH COMPLETE EVENT  
SPACE ENHANCEMENT

The Ritz-Carlton, St. Louis has officially completed the remastering of its 30,000 square feet of event space. The renovation delivers tasteful, sophisticated new interiors along with enhanced event offerings. Among the most impactful upgrades are a technical makeover of the hotel's Amphitheater, inventive group menus and innovative meeting breaks, reimaged event theming and designs, and a celebratory meetings package to further showcase the hotel's new offering.

For details on new meeting, event and wedding experiences at The Ritz-Carlton, St. Louis, call 314.863.6300 or [ritzcarlton.com/stlouis](http://ritzcarlton.com/stlouis).



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## Excellence in Retail/Service:

*Cont. from Pg. 1*

in the world and are voted on for their ability to exceed travelers' needs and expectations.

Award winners are derived from the Condé Nast Traveler Readers' Choice Survey, the largest independent poll of consumer travel preferences in the U.S. For the 2017 rankings, more than 300,000 readers voted.

"These honors are a worthy tribute to the ladies and gentlemen of The Ritz-Carlton, St. Louis, and to their commitment to delivering truly outstanding guest experiences," said Amanda Joiner, hotel General Manager. "We are grateful to the Clayton Chamber and to the readers of Condé Nast Traveler for embracing our exceptional team."

The 305-room Ritz-Carlton, St. Louis opened in 1990 and is noted for its focus on creating #RCMemories for its guests. From preparing wedding cuisine using favorite recipes of couples' grandmothers, to customizing heartwarming amenities for travelers far from home, The Ritz-Carlton, St. Louis celebrates its guests with highly personalized touches. In one recent case, the concierge curated a customized private tour for a guest interested in local art and architecture, taking her on the tour himself and narrating throughout. He arranged the stops chronologically to give the guest the best sense of time and place for the buildings they visited, and the tour ended with them both lying on the floor of the Cathedral Basilica gazing at the ceiling – which showcases the second largest mosaic masterpiece in the world.

Adding to the hotel's appeal, The Ritz-Carlton, St. Louis recently unveiled a spectacular renovation that has added sophistication and serenity to its luxury guest rooms and suites. The Ritz-Carlton ballroom and meeting/event spaces have also been remastered, creating contemporary new options for the many galas, weddings, meetings and social events which take place in the region. Additionally, the hotel has opened a new spa and fitness center, and it has also introduced new enhancements to the Lobby Lounge and its popular gathering and dining settings.



THE RITZ-CARLTON®  
ST. LOUIS

## President's Letter

I am honored to serve as President of Clayton's Chamber of Commerce for the 2018 year, and with that honor, look forward to a year of growth, networking and development. A look outside of any window in the Clayton area confirms that 2018 has started off with new restaurants, housing developments and businesses opening their doors to the community, in a collective effort to serve our robust business and residential community. This period of development is not only exciting, but speaks to the constant goal of innovation and looking towards the future, while remaining grounded in the hard work that has brought us to this point. I would be remiss not to make note of the benefit the Chamber of Commerce brings to each and every business in the community—whether old or brand new. With more than 40 events and programs each year, the Chamber actively seeks to bring the business community together and does so in entertaining and unique ways, serving its members, large and small, in facilitating new connections and opportunities. During my time as President, I look forward to working with the growing business community here in Clayton, welcoming new Chamber members and thanking our long-time participants for their membership.



**Emily Cantwell**

At Mayor Sanger's State of the City Address on January 18, he made mention of a famous quote by Winston Churchill—"Now this is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning." A walk down any Clayton street in the business district echoes this sentiment as we continue to grow and improve the businesses in our community well beyond what the City's founding fathers envisioned more than 100 years ago, at Clayton's own beginning. This progress, I believe, is a point of pride for Clayton, and provides a well-deserved spotlight for our businesses.

I am certain 2018 will prove to be yet another successful and exciting year for Clayton, and those businesses that call this area home. The Clayton Chamber of Commerce looks forward to hosting you and your colleagues at many events throughout the year, as we embark on the end of the beginning and look towards a successful new year.

Emily Cantwell  
President, 2018

## Operating in Clayton for Over 65 Years



Gershman Commercial Real Estate is the largest locally owned, full-service real estate firm in St. Louis offering commercial brokerage services, asset and facilities management, investment acquisition / disposition, corporate services, consulting and development services.

For information please visit the website at:  
[www.GershmanCommercial.com](http://www.GershmanCommercial.com)

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# ANNUAL BOWLING BASH

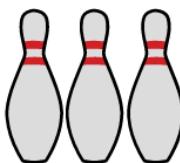


Presented By  Washington University in St. Louis  
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE IN ARTS & SCIENCES

Wednesday, February 28th

5:30 p.m.

Tropicana Bowling Lanes



Register at [www.claytoncommerce.com](http://www.claytoncommerce.com)

## Leadership Clayton Class of 2017/2018



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**L**eadership Clayton is a signature Chamber program that educates and develops effective community leaders. The program provides an opportunity to learn about the Clayton community and focuses on significant issues facing our region today. Participants interact with local business leaders in Clayton and St. Louis County government, business and other civic organizations. Over the course of eight months, the class works together to create and implement a project to benefit the community. We invite you to meet the class of 2018.

### MATTHEW AHLERS

Matt Ahlers is an associate with the law firm Husch Blackwell LLP, practicing in the Real Estate, Development & Construction group. Matt's practice focuses on commercial real estate transactions and development, including development incentives. Matt enjoys serving as the President of the Board of Directors of the Brentwood Swim Club and spending time with his wife and three children.



### JONATHAN BABCOCK

Jonathan Babcock obtained a Bachelor's degree in Accounting from MidAmerica Nazarene University and a minor in International Business Management from Korea Nazarene University. Currently, he works at BowPoint as an analyst where he is responsible for industry research and target identification for both platform and add-on investments. He has worked on multiple buy-side engagements for private equity groups that collectively manage over \$1 billion. Prior to joining BowPoint, he was an Investment Research Analyst for an institutional investment management company and served as an Analyst at KeyBank Real Estate Capital. He enjoys volunteering at local organizations to better the community and playing indoor soccer.



### ANGEE BREWER

Angee Brewer MSN, RN, is a Nursing Director of Medical Acute Care and Interim Surgical Services at SSM Saint Mary's Hospital. She has sixteen years of professional experience in clinical and leadership nursing roles. Most recently Angee was awarded a Clinical Excellence Award from Hester Davis patient falls program. She is passionate about safety and implementing processes that will improve outcomes in healthcare for patients.



### TRAVIS COFFMAN

Travis Coffman has been working in the agriculture industry for seven years, working his way up to a leadership role at Brighton Agency in Clayton, MO as Account Manager. He manages major ag-industry accounts providing strategic support and execution to his clients. Travis graduated the University of Missouri with a B.S. in Business Administration with an emphasis in Marketing. He joined Brighton in 2013 after his work with Koch Agronomic Services and AGROTAIN International. Travis lives in Eureka, MO with his wife Courtney and is a proud member of the National Agra-Marketing Association.



### CAITLIN CONRAD

After graduating from MU's College of Business in 2014, Caitlin Conrad went on to follow her passion for coffee and business at Kaldi's Coffee Roasting Co. as a part of the wholesale team. At Kaldi's, she saw opportunities that sparked her entrepreneurial spirit and gave her the freedom to be innovative, strategic and creative in a dynamic and quickly growing specialty coffee industry. Caitlin currently serves as a vendor and alumni liaison to St. Joseph's Academy. She also serves on the Kaldi's community outreach team helping to support the missions of the JDRF, the MS150 bike team and Pedal the Cause. Caitlin enjoys traveling and exploring the ever growing and expanding dining scene in St. Louis and beyond.



### MEAGHAN DOWD

Meaghan Dowd was born and raised in St. Louis graduating from University of Missouri St. Louis with a bachelor degree in Criminal Justice. During college Meaghan worked inside an insurance company and has never looked back. Starting with POWERS Insurance and Risk management in 2015, she loves working with successful and accomplished individuals and families to make sure the things they love and cherish are properly covered. Coming from a family of attorneys, Meaghan has



seen what can happen due to improper insurance coverage. During her free time she enjoys going to her farm with her husband Nick and 2 dogs to enjoy family, nature and horseback riding.

### DAN FREELAND

Dan joined Gershman Commercial Real Estate in 2014 and focuses on the leasing and sales of office properties throughout St. Louis. Dan continues to focus in the St. Louis office market spending time on both landlord and tenant representation, property disposition and office sales. Prior to Gershman, Dan was a Transaction Manager at Cassidy Turley, where he completed over 150 transactions. He is a member of the Missouri Real Estate Salesperson License, St. Louis Association of Realtors and CCIM Education. Dan is a graduate of Southern Methodist University with a BBA in Real Estate Finance and a minor in Economics. His community involvement includes The Little Bit Foundation and BJC Children's Hospital.



### MARY JO GRUBER

Mary Jo Gruber, CPA, CGMA, SFO serves the School District of Clayton as its Chief Financial Officer where she is responsible for managing the District's financial operations. She has been with the District for 18 years, seven as CFO and 11 as the Director of Accounting. Previously, she was an auditor for a national CPA firm and a regional CPA firm. The School District of Clayton was one of her clients. Mary Jo received her BBA with a double major in Accounting and Business Administration from McKendree University and her MBA from Fontbonne University where she was honored as "Outstanding MBA Student".



### ANTHONY JARBOE

Tony Jarboe is an associate at Stinson Leonard Street LLP. His focus is primarily on providing counsel to corporate creditors through a wide range of bankruptcy proceedings. Tony received his B.S. in Journalism from Northwestern University and attended Washington University School of Law, J.D. He co-authored Commercial Bankruptcy Litigation, 2d, 2016 ed. He is a member of the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis.



### CHRISTOPHER MURPHY

Chris Murphy, CPA is an associate within the Business Services division of Purk & Associates, P.C. He primarily focuses on small and medium sized businesses assisting in the fields of audit and tax. He is a member of the Missouri Society of Certified Public Accountants and The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Chris holds a Bachelor's degree in Accounting from Colorado State University – Global Campus and a Bachelor's degree in Hospitality and Restaurant Administration from Missouri State University. In his spare time, Chris enjoys golfing, traveling, playing drums and volunteering with The First Tee of St. Louis.



### KRISTIN POOLE

Kristin Poole is a Wealth Advisor focused on holistic planning at Buckingham. In addition to serving clients for 12 years, Kristin has experience overseeing the firm's advisory teams across the country. In recognition of her investment expertise, she was named to the firm's Investment Policy Committee in 2014. Kristin is also an adjunct lecturer at Washington University in the Master of Science in Finance, Wealth and Asset Management program. Kristin holds a bachelor's degree in Spanish and English from University of Missouri-Columbia and an MBA in International Business from Saint Louis University. Kristin is a board member for Healing Hearts bank, a local micro-lending program, and a volunteer for the Kids Community Closet.



## Leadership Clayton Class of 2017/2018

### BRIAN RANDAZZO

Brian Randazzo's responsibilities at Arcturis consist of leading business development and connecting with companies and partners in the region to develop new opportunities for his team. He is a graduate of University at Buffalo with a degree in Communications and received a Chancellor's Certificate from UMSL in Fundamentals of Economic Development. Brian's community involvement includes serving as a board member with HomeFirst STL and People Helper Project, RBC Leadership 100, Focus STL – Emerging Leader, St Louis Art Museum - CPP Committee and Urban Land Institute – St. Louis Membership Chair.



### DANIEL SAETTELE

Dan Saettle is a relationship manager at Busey Bank, focusing on commercial and industrial lending. He has eight years of commercial banking experience in the St. Louis area. Dan has a bachelor's degree in finance from the University of Missouri and a master's degree in accountancy from the University of Notre Dame. In his free time, Dan enjoys spending time outdoors and with his wife and two sons.



### KIRAN SATWANI

Kiran comes from a finance background and works for Mueller Prost. As part of the valuations services department, she works on business valuations of tangible and intangible assets of closely held companies. Her prior experience is related to product management at a large multinational bank. Kiran did her MS in Economics and Finance from SIUE and is also a Chartered Financial Analyst.



### ALBERT SCHMIDT

Albert Schmidt is the Director of Marketing for Simons Jewelers where he has worked for five years. In addition to overseeing marketing and advertising initiatives, he assists with jewelry buying and other business operations. Albert is a Gemologist in Training with the Gemological Institute of America. He has completed the highest level training for Breitling watches in Switzerland, and in 2014, was recognized by Breitling for ranking 3rd in the country in a national training competition. Albert graduated from Saint Louis University in 2013 with a BS in Business Administration with a marketing focus. While in college, he also served as president of Alpha Delta Gamma fraternity.



### STEVE THIELE

Steve Thiele is the Co-Founder & Vice President of BowPoint, a boutique investment banking firm that provides mergers and acquisitions advisory services in the lower middle market. He oversees BowPoint's buy-side division which provides acquisition search services to private equity groups and corporate acquirers nationwide that are seeking both new platform investments as well as add-on acquisitions. Steve enjoys volunteering with CHADS Coalition for Mental Health and Kirkwood Parks. Steve attended Missouri State University where he obtained his B.S. in Finance and graduated with honors.



### HANNAH WILSON

Hannah is a Business Development Executive with Caravus. She helps business owners and HR professionals simplify their employee benefits. She is passionate about understanding what is important to our clients to make the complicated world of employee benefits easier! A graduate of University of Evansville in 2013 with a Bachelors in Applied Sciences she enjoyed playing volleyball and earned captain status from 2011-2012. Currently she is involved in coaching youth volleyball for Rockwood Thunder Volleyball Club. Hannah also serves on the young professionals' board, Club Rock, as part of Kids Rock Cancer.



### KATHARINE ZIMMERMAN

Katie Zimmerman is the Marketing Coordinator for the KellyMitchell Group. In her role, Katie oversees the implementation of the organization's digital marketing efforts and promotional portfolio. Katie attended the University of Vermont where she earned her degree in Communications. Katie has taken on various leadership positions in local non-profits, including overseeing the programming for YPO Next Generation St. Louis, chairing the Chapter Advisory Board of Kappa Delta at Washington University and being a member of the Sports Commission Associates Board. When not working, Katie is an avid Blues hockey fan and enjoys spending time with her two dogs, Winnie and Truman.



# EXPLORE SCANDINAVIAN CAPITALS

August 25 – September 3, 2018 *continued from page 1*

\$4,299 includes ten days, eight nights, first-class land accommodations in centrally located hotels, two night Baltic Cruise to Stockholm/Helsinki/Stockholm and one night cruise to Copenhagen/Oslo, 15 meals, day trips, professional tour director, deluxe motor coaches, baggage handling and transfers and airfare from St. Louis. Bookings received after March 30th will be \$4,399 provided space is still available.

Chamber trips are open to anyone who wants to explore Scandinavia.



# 1st Annual Clayton Cocktail Cup

*The first Annual Clayton Cocktail Cup held in the lobby of Two Twelve Clayton featured five of the area's top mixologists.*



Eduardo Hendricks, BARcelona Tapas Bar

Gabby Harrison, Barrister's in Clayton

Kyle Snyder, Café Napoli

Monica, Schepis The Ritz-Carlton, St. Louis

Nick Whren, Weber Grill Restaurant

Contestants were judged on flair, taste, technique, and aroma of their signature drinks. In round one, the contestants were tasked with concocting their best drink featuring rye. Mixologists used gin in the second round for their creative cocktails. Finally for the last round, two finalists concocted a drink of their choice.

It was a close competition, but in the end the judges selected Monica Schepis as the winner! She was awarded a traveling trophy, which will stay at The Ritz-Carlton, St. Louis until she defends her title at the 2018 competition. She also received gift certificates from Wellbridge Athletic Club & Spa, Whitebox Eatery and The Ritz-Carlton, St. Louis. Guests enjoyed delicious appetizers from BARcelona and music by DJ Cindy Clayman.



Judges Telie Woods, LifeWellEaten; Nathan Kromat, Major Brands; 2017 Clayton Cocktail Cup winner, Monica Schepis, The Ritz-Carlton, St. Louis and Judge Allyson Mace, Sauce Magazine.

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## Best of Clayton

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The 2017 Best of Clayton presented by Centene Corporation continues to be the place to be to make new connections and learn about our business community! Attendees had the opportunity to meet and talk with representatives from more than 40 local businesses that comprise the Clayton Chamber of Commerce.



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### BEST OF CLAYTON VENDORS

- BARcelona Tapas Bar
- Barrister's in Clayton
- Becker & Rosen CPAs LLC
- Bethesda Barclay House
- Castle Design
- The Center of Clayton
- Clayton Chamber of Commerce
- Clayton Fire Department
- Executive Womens Golf Association, STL
- FastSigns
- First Mid-Illinois Bank & Trust
- Fontbonne University
- Gateway Arch Park Foundation
- Hands on Health
- Kakao Chocolate
- Kaldi's Coffee Roasting Co.
- Mayana Mexican Kitchen
- MT & Associates, LLC/Sign Language Interpreting
- The Ritz-Carlton, St. Louis
- School District of Clayton
- SERVPro of Clayton/Ladue
- SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital
- St. Louis Artists' Guild
- Universal Creative Concepts
- Weber Grill Restaurant
- The Wine Merchant

## News From Our Members

### Armstrong Teasdale LLC

Armstrong Teasdale announced Litigation associate Jeremy M. Brenner has been named to Missouri Lawyers Weekly's Up & Coming class of 2017. Financial and Real Estate Services partner Steven N. Cousins was selected by The Missouri Bar Foundation to receive the 2017 Martin J. Purcell award.



Steven Cousins



Jeremy M. Brenner



Joseph Hipskind

The Firm welcomed Joseph Hipskind Jr. as Financial and Real Estate Services partner.

Armstrong received the highest possible score on the 2018 Corporate Equality Index (CEI), a national benchmarking survey and report on corporate policies and practices related to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) workplace equality.

### Clayton Fire Department

Three members of the Clayton Fire Department were recognized by the Greater St. Louis Fire Chiefs Association for their heroic actions that resulted in the rescue of a person trapped in a structure fire. Bryan Brielmaier, Mike Dedert, and Justin Nenninger received a Class VI unit citation on November 5, 2017.

### Fontbonne University

Fontbonne University launched The Fontbonne Promise, a new program that makes the dream of a debt-free, private college education a reality for low-income students.

The University received a \$1.25 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs to fund 40 graduate students studying deaf education or speech-language pathology.

### Gladys Manion

Gladys Manion, Inc. announced the addition of Aimee Simpson to its real estate team.



Aimee Simpson

### Midwest BankCentre

Midwest Bank-Centre welcomes Marcus Adams, vice president and mortgage lender and Franklin D. Shelton Jr., vice president and commercial lender.



Marcus Adams



Franklin D. Shelton Jr.

### Missouri History Museum

The National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences Mid-America honored the Missouri History Museum's Show Me 66: Main Street Through Missouri for Best Documentary – Historical at the 41st Mid-America EMMY Awards.

The Museum received a 2017 Leadership in History Award from the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) in recognition of the 10th anniversary of the Museum's Teens Make History (TMH) program.

## Missouri History Museum

### Mueller Prost

Mueller Prost CPAs + Business Advisors announced Kiran Satwani earned the Chartered Financial Analyst designation (CFA) from the CFA Institute.

### POWERS Insurance and Benefits

JD Powers, president of Powers Insurance and Risk Management, was named a 2017 Young Gun by Insurance Business America magazine.

## SAVE THE DATE

### WEBER GRILL LUNCH APRIL 24TH

### PARTIES IN THE PARK MAY 9, JUNE 13, JULY 11, AUGUST 8, SEPTEMBER 12

### CORPORATE CHALLENGE SEPTEMBER 29TH PRESENTED BY



### BEST OF CLAYTON NOVEMBER 12TH PRESENTED BY



## Share Your News

If you have information you wish to share with our members, please send a Press Release and photo to

Mary-Ellen Tobin at  
[mtobin@claytoncommerce.com](mailto:mtobin@claytoncommerce.com).

We will make every effort to include your information in an upcoming edition and reserve the right to edit.



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## South African Adventure



Last Fall, the Clayton Chamber of Commerce embarked on a trip of a lifetime to South Africa and Zimbabwe. While on safari, the group was lucky enough to witness the iconic Big Five which includes the African lion, the African elephant, the Cape buffalo, the rhinoceros and the elusive African leopard. The game viewing experience was provided by experienced and extremely knowledgeable guides that gave us a deeper understanding of conservation,

animal behavior, African culture and issues affecting animal preservation. We traveled to Cape Town and experienced the breathtaking views of the coast and the Cape of Good Hope. Victoria Falls was magnificent as were the accommodations and cuisine throughout this adventure. This truly was a thrilling and unforgettable adventure.

If you would like to make your own travel memories, join us this summer as we explore Scandinavia!

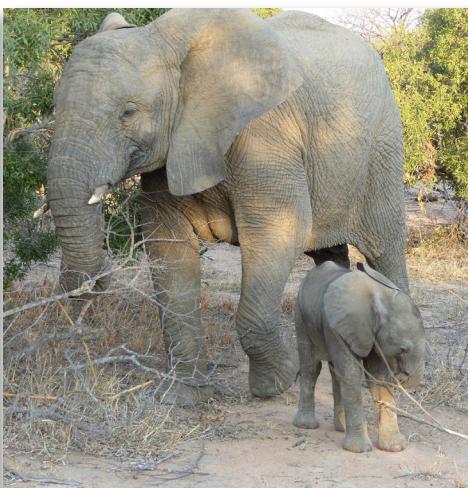


photo credit – Steve Archer



## Mayor's Message



**Harold Sanger**

As the bitter cold and broken water pipes of winter 2017-18 begin to wind down, Spring and the rejuvenation that it offers is not far away. Clayton parks and streetscapes will soon be reminding us why we have been named a "Tree City" for the past 26 years, and for those who live or work in one of our high rise venues, a canopy of green will once again join the view from your windows.

Spring is the launch point for activities on our streets and around town, and our very busy City of Clayton Events Specialist has a great season planned. Combine those events with the exciting activities on the Clayton Chamber of Commerce calendar and you will find many reasons to stay and play after work. Visit [www.claytonmo.gov/calendar](http://www.claytonmo.gov/calendar) and [www.claytoncommerce.com/events](http://www.claytoncommerce.com/events) for the schedules.

The weeks and months ahead will see the continuation of activity at existing development sites; rising construction cranes as new developments get underway; and the sight of movers bringing new residents to live in downtown Clayton. As a livable community with a safe and attractive work environment, a commitment to extraordinary city services, a broad array of restaurants and unique retail offerings, Clayton continues to be among the most sought after communities in the St. Louis region for residential and commercial development.

In addition to the development projects recently completed or underway, a major investment in Clayton's crown jewel Shaw Park was completed late last fall. Chapman Plaza at the corner of Forsyth and Brentwood Boulevards is a vision turned to reality thanks to the generosity of Bob Chapman, the Barry Wehmiller Company and the Clayton Century Foundation. You can best appreciate this new entry to Shaw Park from downtown Clayton by strolling past the fountain and heading down the walkway to the waterfall and immaculate landscaping. Take a break and enjoy it today.

From me, the Clayton Board of Aldermen and the Clayton City Staff, we wish you a happy, and most importantly, healthy 2018.

Harold Sanger  
 Clayton Mayor

## New Members

### BancorpSouth

Ms. Penny Rogers  
8235 Forsyth Blvd.  
Suite 100  
Clayton, MO 63105  
(314) 290-3140  
Fax: (314) 290-3140



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### The Barton

Ms. Julie Garcia  
8500 Marland Ave.  
Clayton, MO 63105  
(314) 375-6906



Website: [www.thebartonstl.com](http://www.thebartonstl.com)

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*Coffee Service*

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Mr. Geoff Dill  
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Website: [www.thecapitalgrille.com](http://www.thecapitalgrille.com)

*Restaurant/Catering*

Fine-dining restaurant that offers dry aged steaks, fresh seafood, an award-winning wine list and professional service in an atmosphere of relaxed elegance. Best known for its expertly prepared steaks by the restaurant's in-house butcher. Dedicated to culinary excellence throughout its menu, a skilled pastry chef prepares desserts. The restaurant's acclaimed wine list features more than 350 selections, and its floor-to-ceiling wine kiosk regularly houses 3,500 - 5,000 bottles.

### Belmont Party Rental

Mr. Paul Belmont  
7616 Big Bend Industrial Ct.  
St. Louis, MO 63143  
(314) 997-7300  
Fax: (314) 646-7700



Website: [www.belmontpartyrentals.com](http://www.belmontpartyrentals.com)

*Event Planning/Management*

Serving the greater St. Louis area with over 40 years of experience, owner Paul Belmont has been involved in the party rental business since 1975. From small intimate gatherings to large corporate events, Paul and his crew have done it all.

### Executive Womens Golf Association, STL Chapter

Ms. Lori Woodward  
349 Conway Hill Road  
St. Louis, MO 63141  
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## Congratulations, Brian Björkman, Business Executive of the Year!

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The Clayton Chamber is proud to announce University College at Washington University in St. Louis as the presenting sponsor of the 2018 Power Hour Networking Luncheons.

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## Pillar in the Community

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The Clayton Chamber of Commerce honored Maxine Clark, one of the true innovators in the retail industry, with the 2017 Pillar in the Community Award at a luncheon at the Ritz-Carlton, St. Louis presented by Centene Corporation. During Maxine's career, her ability to spot emerging retail and merchandising trends and her insight into the desires of the American consumer have generated growth for retail leaders, including department store, discount and specialty stores. In 1997, she founded Build-A-Bear Workshop®, a teddy-bear themed retail-entertainment experience. Today there are more than 400 Build-A-Bear Workshop stores worldwide.

In June 2013, Maxine stepped down from her Chief Executive Bear role to apply her entrepreneurial skills to her passion for improving K-12 public education and to invest in and mentor women and minority entrepreneurs. Maxine credits her teachers as her foundation for success—classroom teachers and mentors alike. To honor them she gives back. Her next "act" is to make public education much more consumer friendly by creating more access for families and students to systems and supports to enrich each child's learning experience. Launched in 2015, is her first product, Blueprint4SummerSTL, a free and easy-to-use mobile app designed to help ALL families navigate the best summer activities for their children. Her latest venture is the Delmar DiviNe™—the transformation of a neighborhood eyesore into a multi-use real estate development to open in Spring, 2019. Maxine is also a Managing Partner of Prosper Women's Capital, a St. Louis based fund created to invest in women owned businesses in the St. Louis area and a member of the Board of Advisors of Lewis & Clark Ventures, a St. Louis based private equity firm.

In 2008, Maxine Clark was named one of The 25 Most Influential People in Retailing by Chain Store Age; in 2006, she was inducted into the Junior Achievement National Business Hall of Fame. Maxine was named one of the Wonder Women of Toys by Playthings magazine and Women in Toys, and was also one of the National Finalists in Retail for the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year 2004. In 2005, the National Association of Small Business Investment Companies made Build-A-Bear Workshop Portfolio Company of the Year; it was named one of the International Council of Shopping Centers "Hottest Retailers of 2004" and the Retail Innovator of the Year for 2001 by The National Retail Federation. In 2017 Build-A-Bear Workshop was named to the FORTUNE Best Companies to Work For® list for the ninth year in a row. In 2017 Maxine was named to the Missouri Public Affairs Hall of Fame and in 2015 was named Women of the Year by the Greater Missouri Leadership Foundation.

### Business Person of the Year: Brian Bjorkman

*Cont. from Pg. 1*

Brian is known as the "fun dad" in the neighborhood—setting off fireworks, playing kick the can and building an ice rink every winter. Brian is also an avid outdoorsman, enjoying golfing, fishing and hunting. He is also quite the handyman—give him a project and he swears he can fix or build anything.

As passionate as Brian is about banking, he is equally as passionate about giving back to his community. He is a Board Member for United Way and has involvement in various charities throughout St. Louis.

Brian has also coached his daughters for the CYC Soccer Program and acts as a Eucharistic Minister at Mary Queen of Peace.

When asked about his success, Brian said, "A true leader understands leadership is not about them but about the people they serve. I wouldn't be where I am today if it wasn't for the many talented associates I've worked with over the years and the outpouring of support I've received from my community. For that, I thank you all!"



Nicole Zellweger, Stinson Leonard Street LLP & 2017 Chamber President with Maxine Clark, 2017 Pillar in the Community and Ellen Gale, Chamber Executive Director

### Past President's Letter

Greetings! I hope 2018 is off to a great start for you. As I reflect upon 2017, I am pleased to report that it was yet another outstanding year for the Clayton Chamber—and hopefully all of its members! It may come as little surprise to all of you that the Chamber produced nearly 50 events and programs in 2017. These events and programs offered many unique and different opportunities for our members to connect and be part of the Clayton community. In 2018, we will continue to offer meaningful and quality programs and events designed to be entertaining while providing ways to grow your business. I again encourage you to get involved and make the most of your membership!



Nicole Zellweger

I want to personally acknowledge the Chamber's Executive Director, Ellen Gale, and her outstanding team, Mary-Ellen Tobin and Mary Rosner for their dedication and commitment to the Chamber. I also want to publicly thank retiring board members Rebecca Boyer and Barb Nikolychik for their extensive contributions to the Chamber. Finally, I wish to recognize and congratulate our 2017 Pillar in the Community award recipient, Maxine Clark, as well as all of the Business Award winners. One thing is very clear—your accomplishments strengthen our business community as a whole.

Please take a moment to think about ways that you can get involved with the Chamber. One great new program that I would like to highlight is the Clayton Summer Associates. It is an outstanding program that provides networking and social opportunities for student interns with Clayton businesses, with the ultimate goal of keeping young talent in St. Louis. And do not forget that you can also travel with the Chamber—why not go on an adventure to Scandinavia? There are so many ways to participate and take advantage of all of the benefits the Chamber has to offer. I hope to see you out and about in 2018! Much success to you in 2018!

Nicole Zellweger  
2017 President

## State of the City



Special  
thanks to  
our caterer!



Mayor Harold Sanger presented his State of the City update to a packed house January 18th at the offices of Armstrong Teasdale. To view the presentation online go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ROVGmxlzT6s&feature=youtu.be>

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CALL 854-6023 TO REGISTER OR VISIT [WWW.SUMMERQUEST.ORG](http://WWW.SUMMERQUEST.ORG).

## Corporate Challenge 2017

Last Fall 18 Clayton businesses showed their competitive spirit in full force for the Annual Corporate Challenge presented by SSM St. Mary's Hospital.

### Thank You Sponsors!



### Winners

#### Division 1

##### OVERALL WINNERS

- |                                 |                     |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| DIVISION 1                      | DIVISION 2          |
| 1ST Mueller Prost               | Cushman & Wakefield |
| 2ND Buckingham Asset Management | Commerce Bank       |
| 3RD BDO                         | RubinBrown LLP      |

##### BAGS

- |                                 |                    |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| DIVISION 1                      | DIVISION 2         |
| 1ST Buckingham Asset Management | RubinBrown LLP     |
| 2ND BDO                         | Commerce Bank      |
| 3RD Kaldi's Coffee              | Caleres - Athfeets |

##### SAND VOLLEYBALL

- |                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| DIVISION 1         | DIVISION 2          |
| 1ST Mueller Prost  | Cushman & Wakefield |
| 2ND Kaldi's Coffee | Graybar             |
| 3RD BDO            | Caleres - Athfeets  |

##### BASKETBALL FREE THROW

- |                                 |                     |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| DIVISION 1                      | DIVISION 2          |
| 1ST Mueller Prost               | Commerce Bank       |
| 2ND Buckingham Asset Management | Caleres - Athfeets  |
| 3RD Peoples National Bank       | Cushman & Wakefield |

##### RELAY OBSTACLE COURSE

- |                                 |                     |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| DIVISION 1                      | DIVISION 2          |
| 1ST Mueller Prost               | RubinBrown LLP      |
| 2ND Clayton Chamber Team        | Caleres - Solemates |
| 3RD Buckingham Asset Management | Commerce Bank       |

##### TUG-OF-WAR

- |                                 |                         |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| DIVISION 1                      | DIVISION 2              |
| 1ST BDO                         | Cushman & Wakefield     |
| 2ND Buckingham Asset Management | SSM St. Mary's Hospital |
| 3RD Busey Bank                  | Vital Signs             |

##### TENT DECORATING

- |            |                       |
|------------|-----------------------|
| DIVISION 1 | DIVISION 2            |
| Brighton   | SSM St. Mary Hospital |

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# CORPORATE CHALLENGE



### The Chamber thanks the 2017 Corporate Challenge participants!



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Aqua Systems &  
Mountain Valley Spring Water – water  
Kaldi's Coffeehouse  
TruFusion - classes day of event  
Music by Cindy Clayman

This event would not be possible without the outstanding Corporate Challenge Planning Committee.

Abbie Bergtholdt - BDO USA  
Lou Callen, Merrill Lynch  
Kevin McCann, Caleres  
Pat Miller, RubinBrown LLP  
Lindsay Pearson, Buckingham  
Andy Vien, BDO USA  
Kirk Wonio, RubinBrown LLP  
Katie Zimmerman, Kelly Mitchell Group

The Corporate Challenge Committee is extremely grateful to the volunteers who give their time to ensure the success of the Challenge.

Vanessa Abanathy	Tangia Lever
Walter Avalos	Mackenzie Moore
Steven Bender	Michele Muller
Paige Brinker	Kelsey Nelson
Zenovia Caldwell	Naomi Nelson
Judy Combs	James Patton
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Kim Edmons	Denise Ramirez
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Michelle Guzman	Rian Schilliglo
Mary Claire Hellman	David Schwendeman
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## Board News

Chamber Executive Director Ellen Gale and 2017 Chamber President Nicole Zellweger, Stinson Leonard Street crown 2018 President Emily Cantwell, Lathrop Gage LLP.

### Retiring Board Members



**2017** brought board terms to an end for two dedicated board members – Rebecca Boyer, Kelly Mitchell and Barb Nikolychik, HM.

### Cornerstone Award: Cont. from Pg. 1



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*ours to build, ours to share*

and is consistent with the City's master plans. The organization is governed by a Board of Directors representing residents of all three wards in Clayton, business people from all sectors and leaders with a wide variety of passions.

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hub...and CCF is committed to creating and supporting projects that help to attract and retain people in the St. Louis region. CCF also strives to promote community pride, develop pathways for volunteer experiences and nurture leadership for the next generation. CCF welcomes your participation!

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