

the Business EDGE

RiverBend GROWTH ASSOCIATION
Serving Business, Encouraging Growth in Southwestern Illinois

IN THIS ISSUE

Welcome our Newest Members
page 4

Duck Race details
page 5

Ribbon Cuttings
page 6

Golf Tournament details
page 8

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www.growthassociation.com

Growth Association Gains Enhanced Presence on the Web

The River Bend Growth Association this month will welcome two new websites - - - one with a fresh new look aimed at serving its members and the community, and the other to help put the area on the map and in front of potential new business prospects.

The membership website for the organization www.growthassociation.com recently received a new look, added features and an improved navigational map to help visitors in finding what they need, faster and with more pizzazz thanks to the efforts of the team at Riverbender.com. The membership site is still packed with much of the same great information as its previous site, such as demographic information for each community, membership news and information about special upcoming events and committee news and notes. More prominent on the website is a search feature that allows visitors to search Growth Association members by industry and name. New features to the site include an audio stream to WBGZ's monthly "Let's Talk" segment featuring information about organization news and events presented by Growth Association staff, a multimedia component showcasing photos and video from events and meetings, and much, much more. The designers at Riverbender.com have outdone themselves in giving the website a great new look.

Among the key new features to the Growth Association's membership website is a link to its new site selection website, www.riverbendprospector.com. The site is designed to provide site selectors and businesses with the tools they need to select the right building or site for their company relocation or expansion in the River Bend. It features a new innovative online mapping tool designed to accelerate and simplify the process of attracting job growth, efficiently answers the main questions that businesses have when they are involved in the site selection analysis process, provides industry cluster profiling and search options and much more. According to Monica Bristow, president of the River Bend Growth Association, "The importance of providing quality property and site selection information online is critical because over ninety percent of the initial site selection screening is now accomplished using the Internet. We recognized this trend and have made a significant investment in the technology hoping to further the River Bend's reputation as a positive business environment and ultimately spur additional developments and increase the local job base."



BOOKMARKS:
www.growthassociation.com
River Bend Growth Association
Membership Community Website



www.riverbendprospector.com
Economic Development/Site &
Selection Website

*A monthly publication of The River Bend Growth Association...
Your Regional Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Agency*

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Current Economic Indicators

- **Illinois Unemployment Rate:**
Seasonally adjusted Illinois unemployment rate decreased to 5.5 % in January, down 0.1 point from January
- **National Unemployment Rate:** The unemployment rate rose from 4.8 to 5.1 percent in March, and nonfarm payroll employment continued to trend down (-80,000)
- **Consumer Price Index (CPI):** Increased 0.3% in February before seasonal adjustment, February level of 211.693 was 4% higher than in February 2007
- **Producer Price Index (PPI):** rose 0.3% in February
- **Import/Export Price Index:** Import Index increased 0.2% in February, Export Index rose 0.9%
- **Conference Board - Consumer Confidence Index:** declined sharply in February, further in March; now stands at 64.5. It was 95.2 in October (1985=100)
- **Conference Board - Help Wanted Index:** now stands at 21, down 9 points from a year ago

Calendar of Events & Meetings

- 4/22 "Let's Talk" on WBGZ, 10:00 (new date-one time only)
- 5/1 Promotions Committee meeting, Sgt. Peppers Café, 8:30
- 5/7 New Member Orientation, 12:00
- 5/8 Young Adults Committee meeting, 8:15
- 5/13 Ambassador Committee meeting, 11:45
- 5/19 Membership Committee meeting, 11:00
- 5/20 "Let's Talk" on WBGZ, 10:00
- 5/21 Education Committee meeting, Liberty Bank, 10:00
- 5/21 Total Networking Luncheon, Moonlight, 11:30
- 5/26 Memorial Day – Office Closed
- 5/29 Business After Hours-Duck Race, Raging Rivers, 5:00

Thank You!**Ambassador of the Month - March 2008****Therese Kuddes****Kuddes Advertising Specialties**

My name is Therese Kuddes and my husband and I own Kuddes Advertising Specialties. I have been selling ad specialty items since 1983. I have been a member of The Growth Association of Southwestern Illinois since 1990. I am currently an Ambassador and serve on the Membership and Education Committees.

I am a member of St. Ambrose Catholic Church where I serve on the Parish Pastoral Council and Eucharistic Minister to Rosewood Care Center in Alton. I am a member of Pride, Inc. and have been chairperson of the Diabetes Walk in Alton.

I was born in Louisville, KY where I graduated from Mercy Academy High School and attended Western KY University. My husband, Kevin, two dogs and I live in Godfrey. We have 2 sons, Ben is a Civil Engineer in Rogers, AR and Brian graduated from SIUE in December with a Business Management degree and is pursuing his career as a PGA Golf Professional. I enjoy quilting.

Don't forget Administrative Professionals Week

When looking for that special something for the person who assists you in performing your job at work...look no further than The Growth Association's member florists:

- Dick's Flowers at 2621 College Avenue in Alton and 232 North Wood River Avenue in Wood River
- McConahey's Flowers at 5597 Humbert Road in Godfrey
- Seasons Garden Center at 26 East Delmar in Alton

Studies show that flowers and plants in the work place not only make one smile and feel good, but also, makes one more productive.

National Administrative Professional's Week is Monday, April 21 to Friday, April 25. Thank your staff by sending them an arrangement from one of The Growth Association's florists: Dick's Flowers 462-2262 or 254-3441, McConahey's Flowers 467-0467 and Seasons Garden Center 467-2590.

**April 2008 Small Business of the Month Winner
Waltco Tools, Inc.**

Congratulations to Charles Sanderson and Paul Ferrell and their staff at Waltco Tools, located at 1005 Edwardsville Road in Wood River! They are The River Bend Growth Association's Small Business of the Month winner for April 2008!

Waltco Tools started back in 1994 when Charles and Paul left their jobs as tool salesmen for a company out of St. Louis. With a \$30,000 budget and an intense desire to succeed, they've done just that! Waltco Tools is the largest tool only store in the area. They supply every large business, school and municipality in this area.

Waltco Tools shouts the "one stop shop" advantage. They have a 2000 sq.ft. repair facility to fix power tools, pressure washers and air compressors. They've added a hydraulic hose machine and a band saw blade welder. All of this for a "one stop shop" for your entire tool needs.

Waltco Tools will receive a \$2400 promotional package for being selected Small Business of the Month: the opportunity to attend The River Bend Growth Association's monthly show on WBGZ talk radio, be our guest at The River Bend Growth Association's networking breakfast or luncheon where they will be recognized and awarded with a plaque, a 2-sided yard sign to

display at their business, a featured story in The Telegraph newspaper, recognition in The River Bend Growth Association's Business Edge, displayed on The River Bend Growth Association's board that travels to Business After Hours and become eligible to win the annual Small Business of the Year award.

Congratulations to Waltco Tools! For more information pertaining to Waltco Tools, please call 618-259-5133.

If you would like to nominate a business for The River Bend Growth Association's Small Business of the Month, please fill out the form below and mail it to The River Bend Growth Association, 5800 Godfrey Road, Alden Hall, Godfrey, IL 62035.

For more information regarding Small Business of the Month, please contact Joell Aguirre at 618-467-2280 or jaguirre@growthassociation.com.

Business Name _____

Owner or Manager _____

Reason for nomination _____

Nomination submitted by (optional) _____



Awards committee chairperson, Amy Schaake of The Telegraph, proudly shares the enthusiasm of Waltco Tools owners Paul Ferrell and Charles Sanderson, for Small Business of the Month for April 2008.

Welcome our newest members who joined the Growth Association during the month of March

The Alton Marina (Parrot Pointe Marine, Inc)

Karen Baker-Brcnc, Operator/G.M.
1 Henry Street
Alton IL 62002
(618) 462-9860

The Alton Marina, now in its twelfth year of operation is under new management. The new operating company is Parrot Pointe Marine, Inc. which is owned by area resident Karen Baker-Brcnc. The 300 slip harbor boasts covered dockage for boats up to fifty-five feet, and uncovered dockage for vessels to one-hundred twenty feet. The luxury facilities are the cleanest on the river, and include: Dock-level concierge service, one-of-a-kind floating swimming pool with sun deck and spas, plush shower facilities, full service fueling station and pump-out service, controlled parking lots, uniformed night watch, laundromat, with wireless internet and satellite television available. Also, the cost of electricity and water are included in docking rates, and the ship's store gives you a great reason to come to port, whether you are hungry, thirsty, or looking for something unique. The Alton Marina is the premier boating location for enjoying the City of Alton's Independence Day celebration or sample the local restaurants and storefronts, or join in on the fun at the monthly block party! For reservations or information, contact Harbormaster Jeremy Fowler or Karen Baker-Brcnc at (618)462-9860 or e-mail altonmarina@att.net.

Direct Floors

Sara Neely
4131 Alby Street
Alton IL 62002
(618) 463-1300
[yourdirectfloors.com](http://www.yourdirectfloors.com)

Kyle Hagen, DMD

96 S. Ninth Street
East Alton IL 62024
(618) 259-1400
Dr. Kyle Hagen's office is located at 96 South Ninth Street in East

Alton. Dr. Hagen has been practicing dentistry for twelve years. Two years ago, Dr. Hagen was an instructor at the SIU Dental School at which time he decided to dedicate full time to his dental practice. He is experienced and delivers quality dental care for the entire family. Services include: Crown and bridgework, partials and dentures, teeth whitening, implant restoration, periodontal therapy, root canal therapy, LUMINEERS and INVISALIGN. Dr. Hagen has convenient hours for appointments, 259-1400.

Hair Force 1

Stephanie Torrez, Owner
408 W. Bethalto Drive
Bethalto IL 62010
(618) 377-2200
Hair Force 1 was started by Stephanie Torrez (owner) Julie Tushkowski (Manager) Ornetta Gilliam, Babette Ellis, Brittany Robinson, Jessica Klocke (stylists). Together with their family and friends, they remodeled Hair Force 1. Hair Force 1 is a full service hair salon specializing in high fashion foils and color. Mary Peters, licensed manicurist, does both manicures and pedicures. Other services include eyebrow waxing, all natural facials, and monthly specials. Their inventory includes a huge variety of professional hair care products and hair sun protection for summer fun. Plans for future expansion include a tanning spa, body wraps and massage. Hours of operation are Tuesday through Friday til 7 p.m. Saturday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Later appointments are available if needed. The hair stylists at Hair Force 1 have a combination of more than 80 years of experience. Please come in and see for yourself the great environment and the newest styles.

Missouri Baptist University

Bill Combs
5800 Godfrey Road HK B09
Godfrey IL 62035
(618) 468-2620

www.mobap.edu/lc
Missouri Baptist University is a liberal arts school located in West St. Louis County, Missouri. MBU offers both undergraduate and graduate programs. MBU offers degrees and programs at several sites around Missouri and one in Illinois. On the campus of Lewis and Clark Community College, Godfrey, Illinois, MBU offers undergraduate degrees in Accounting, Management, Criminal Justice, Human Services, and Sport Management. The Master in Business Administration is the current graduate degree offered in Godfrey. MBU offices are located in Haskell Hall HKB09, 618 468 2620.

National Tire & Battery

Carrie Freer
1703 Homer Adams Parkway
Alton IL 62002
(618) 463-7015
www.ntb.com

Office Max Store #1452

Rob Mumm
520 Wesley Drive
Wood River IL 62095
(618) 258-0455
www.officemax.com
OfficeMax Incorporated (NYSE: OMX) is a leader in both business-to-business office products solutions and retail office products. The OfficeMax mission is simple. We help our customers do their best work. The company provides office supplies and paper, in-store print and document services through OfficeMax ImPress™, technology products and solutions, and furniture to consumers and to large, medium and small businesses. OfficeMax customers are served by more than 36,000 associates through direct sales, catalogs, e-commerce and more than 900 stores. To find the nearest OfficeMax, call 1-877-OFFICEMAX. For more information, visit www.officemax.com.

Performance Strategies that Work,

aka PSW
Lynden Schuyler, President
796 Franklin St.
Alton IL 62002
(618) 465-3391
www.PSW-training.com (website in progress)
With 25 years of combined experience in management, marketing and operations consulting, the associates at PSW wish to partner with the many fine businesses in the Growth Association to bring greater attention to the River Bend communities it so diligently serves. It's often easy for businesses to forget that in today's world of high technology, people are and will continue to be the most important asset as well as being the most challenging aspect of any business. We focus on high performance and spaced repetition learning and have developed the Compass program to drive employee engagement. Employee engagement allows teams to work more effectively, efficiently and ultimately make your organization more profitable. The Compass program is offered in an open forum environment so that collaboration and information sharing is emphasized. Additionally, we can customize a training program to your specific needs so that you maximize the value of your budget dollars and get the most out of your investment. Watch your mail and email for the series beginning in May or call us today at 618-465-3391 to secure your 27 minute interview and let's get YOUR BUSINESS on the road to High Performance.

Business After Hours
RIVER BEND DUCK RACE
 May 29, 2008
 Raging Rivers WaterPark



The Great River Bend Duck Race is an annual fundraiser that takes place during the Business After Hours at Raging Rivers WaterPark.

Ducks are adopted for \$5.00, placed in the Endless River attraction and float to the finish to win over 100 great prizes. Hundreds of people are in attendance!!!

Co-Host Sponsorship \$750 (limit 3)

- 32 complimentary ducks - Use your duck numbers as company giveaways or assign them to your employees in attendance that evening
- 12 entries into the Corporate area with a reserved table, located in the center of the Endless River attraction
- Complimentary beer and wine (in addition to BAH food and beverage) served exclusively in the Corporate area
- Display table at the event to promote your business
- Display advertisement in The Business Edge, valued at \$125
- Your business/organization listed on all promotional material: BAH postcard, Business Edge articles, flyers and in-park signs the evening of the event
- Air time on The Growth Association's radio talk show hour with WBGZ

Corporate Sponsorship \$300 (limit 41)

- 16 complimentary ducks - Use your duck numbers as company giveaways or assign them to your employees in attendance that evening
- 8 entries into the Corporate area with a reserved table, located in the center of the Endless River attraction
- Complimentary beer and wine (in addition to BAH food and beverage) served exclusively in the Corporate area
- Your business/organization advertised in our Business Edge articles and displayed on in-park signs the evening of the event

Table to Display your Products \$150 (limit 10)

- New for 2008 - a vendor area to promote your business, products and services
- Vendor area is located by Raging Rivers' Wave Pool
- One 6-foot table to promote your business, products and services
- Includes 2 admissions into event

Prize Donor Sponsorship

- Your company name listed on the "Adopt-A-Duck" brochures (if received by Apr. 25)
- Your business/organization advertised in our Business Edge articles and displayed on in-park signs the evening of the event

Prize Donor Sponsorship

Yes, I'd love to donate a prize!

Company Name _____

Contact _____

Phone _____

Description of donation (minimum \$5 value) _____

Please pick up prize

I will deliver to the RBGA office by May 23

Payment Form

Co-Host \$750

Corporate Sponsorship \$300

Display Table Sponsorship \$150

Due to the limited space in our corporate area, sponsorships are limited to the first 44 sponsors.

Company _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Contact _____

Phone _____

I am paying online at <http://www.growthassociation.com> and faxing this form to 618-466-8289

Bill me for the noted amount

Please charge my Visa/MasterCard

Cardholder _____

Account # _____

Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Amount _____

For more information, call Joell at the River Bend Growth Association at 618-467-2280.

Support The River Bend...Buy Locally

TheBANK of Edwardsville celebrates Grand Opening



TheBANK of Edwardsville, located at 1153 Vaughn Road in Wood River, joined together to celebrate the grand opening on Thursday, April 3rd. Pictured left to right: Tom Holloway, Joe Hassler, Bob Plummer, Pat Devening, Wood River Mayor Ufert and Mark Shashek.

TheBANK of Edwardsville celebrated on Thursday, April 3rd with a grand opening celebration marking their newest facility in Wood River, located at 1153 Vaughn Road. This particular banking facility is unique with memorabilia in its vestibule. TheBANK of Edwardsville paid tribute the former site of the Wood River Bowling Alley and its owners. A large case in the lobby contains a timeline of the bowling alley's history and owners. The display, which will be permanent, includes items from the bowling alley, Brass Lamp Lounge and Baker Street Disco. This site of TheBANK of Edwardsville marks their 19th facility. This new bank features modern-day amenities, which include three drive-through lanes and a drive-up ATM. The site also contains more than 100 safety deposit boxes. Over 125 community leaders and supporters, employees, board members, family and friends joined TheBANK of Edwardsville in this celebration. Best wishes to TheBANK of Edwardsville on their continued success!

Ground broke for Madison County Transit's newest station



Alton City officials, Madison County Transit personnel and employees from JJ Wuellner Construction and the Korte Company celebrated the groundbreaking of the MCT Alton Transfer Station. The \$4.2 million project will feature a staging area for eight MCT buses, a climate-controlled

passenger transfer and waiting area and a driver relief facility. The facility will accommodate 7 bus routes and more than 450,000 boarding and alighting passengers each year. This fifth and final MCT station will complete MCT's vision of a "hub and spoke" system, in which buses "pulse" at hubs located throughout Madison County. Wuellner expects to complete the station in the summer of 2009.

New Growth Association member, Cheetah Wireless, Celebrates Grand Opening



Several community supporters, friends and family members participated in Cheetah Wireless's grand opening celebration on Friday, April 4, 2008.

Cheetah Wireless celebrated with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday, April 4th to announce their grand opening at 5411-C Godfrey Road in Godfrey. Cheetah Wireless owner Kerry Struif was proud to showcase her business. Cheetah Wireless provides individuals, families and businesses mobile solutions for work and play. They carry cell phones from many different companies, including Helio. Cheetah Wireless also has a unique no contract/no deposit program called Drive. Owner Kerry Struif and Manager Jayme Meinhardt are wireless broadband card experts. Call Kerry or Jayme at 618-208-3538 or email them at Kerry@cheetahwireless.net. Growth Association Ambassadors came out to welcome Kerry into the River Bend Growth Association: Loretta Dawdy of WBGZ, Karen McAtee of TheBANK of Edwardsville, Sally Crook of Suncon Builders and Designers, Therese Kuddes of Kuddes Advertising Specialties, Dick Propes, Janae Hausman of Olin Community Credit Union, Pam Whisler of the Village of Godfrey and Amy Schaake of The Telegraph. Best wishes to Cheetah Wireless on their success!

Laclede Community Credit Union Breaks Ground



Laclede Community Credit Union celebrates their ground breaking at their future site at #1 Mechanical Drive in Bethalto.

Laclede Community Credit Union celebrated with a ground breaking ceremony on Tuesday, April 15th at their future site at #1 Mechanical Drive in Bethalto. Community leaders, Laclede Community Credit Union board members and employees, friends and family all joined together to wish continued success to Laclede Community Credit Union. Paul Smith, Vice President of Laclede Community Credit Union, addressed a crowd of 50+ people as he thanked guests for joining him in this wonderful opportunity. Laclede Community Credit Union was founded in 1940 and served the Laclede Steel Mill until the mid 1980's. It was at this time that the board of directors had the vision to include residents of Madison, Macoupin and Jersey counties into their service mix. Because of this decision, Laclede Community Credit Union has succeeded in the financial institution industry. Congratulations to Laclede Community Credit Union on their continued success.

Area Manufacturers have new approach to grow top line sales

May 7 event will introduce Metro East to IMEC's Eureka! Winning Ways growth strategies

For small and mid-sized manufacturers today, growth is hard to generate and even harder to sustain. Even as many local companies have made great progress in cutting costs and streamlining their operating processes, research finds that eight in ten companies still need ideas for increasing top-line sales.

To help Metro East manufacturers pursue growth strategies that will generate profit, IMEC is partnering with the Eureka! Ranch, a leading innovation consultancy that has helped manufacturers like Nike, American Express, and Walt Disney to generate business-building ideas. At a May 7th Executive Briefing, IMEC will introduce its Eureka! Winning Ways program to the local manufacturing community.

"The companies we work with are beginning to realize that they

cannot simply cost their way to higher profits," said Bosworth, an IMEC specialist who consults with local companies on how to improve performance.

"With our approach, smaller businesses – particularly manufacturers – can leverage growth methods that up until now have only been accessible by larger corporations."

Developed by Doug Hall, the #1 growth expert in the country, Eureka! Winning Ways is modeled after the Deming philosophy of quality management. The process includes a day of Idea Engineering in which the company's employees are guided through disciplined exercises to generate up to 50 business building ideas. The concepts can be as simple as changing the parameters of a product design, to more complex

decisions such as entering new markets. The best ideas are then scientifically screened to identify one or two that benchmark data suggests are most likely to succeed. From there, IMEC's Certified Growth Coaches guide the company on a 30-day action plan to research and test the top ideas and prepare for implementation.

About IMEC: Globalization has created a fiercely competitive environment for domestic manufacturers. Smaller firms in particular are challenged by a fast-paced market with high demands for quality, cost and delivery. Since 1996, IMEC has helped Illinois' manufacturers meet these challenges and many more. A team of 32 highly trained manufacturing specialists assist more than 500 small and mid-sized Illinois manufacturers each year. Major solutions include operating cost reduction, quality improvement, plant efficiency, information technology, and growth strategies. IMEC is a non-profit organization with 10 office locations throughout Illinois.

Winning Ways to Profitable Growth

Executive Overview
Wednesday, May 7, 2008
7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
Four Points Sheraton;
Salons F&G
319 Fountains Parkway –
Fairview Heights, IL
Cost: Free
(Breakfast Buffet included)
Register at www.imec.org

2008 Annual Duck Race is almost here

I am about ready to scare the pants off you...the Annual River Bend Duck Race is only 6 weeks away!! Thursday, May 29th is this year's date for this networking event at Raging Rivers Water Park in Grafton! The River Bend Growth Association's Annual Duck Race is, for many, the mark of the end of the school year for our children, the beginning of summer....and I don't know about you, but, it doesn't seem possible that it's "that time of year."

The Annual River Bend Duck Race is a great opportunity to showcase your business to over 1500+ members and non members of the River Bend community. Take advantage of this opportunity and get out there and work this crowd to educate these 1500+ guests and show them how great it is to be part of the business community in the River Bend.

Not only is the River Bend Duck Race a great promotional window for your

business, it is also a lot of FUN! This is a great time to treat you and your employees to a fun night of fantastic company, wonderful food and beverages and the opportunity to win over 200+ prizes! Trust me; you don't want to miss this!

As stated earlier in this Business Edge edition, there are 3 types of sponsorships available to members: Co-host sponsors, corporate sponsors and table/booth sponsors. These sponsorships are filling up fast. Therefore, if you are interested in taking advantage of this sponsorship opportunity and the benefits that come with it, contact me at 467-2280 or jaquirre@growthassociation.com.

Take a look at some of these pictures from the Annual Duck Race of 2007! Support the River Bend Growth Association and join in the fun!

-by Joell Aguirre, Director of Member Services



Over 30 volunteers make this happen. Char McAllister, Loretta Dawdy of WBGZ, Jackie Parks of Liberty Bank and Gary Hoggatt of National Bank at Edwardsville ensure all guests have their duck!



Guests anxiously await for their winning duck to come in.



Beverly Farm Foundation's Executive Director Martha Warford enjoys a good laugh from her employee, Gil Young.



Over 200 lucky winners go home with a prize from a River Bend business.

Support The River Bend...Buy Locally

River Bend Golf Classic is June 20

Mark your calendars for the River Bend Growth Association's annual golf tournament, the River Bend Golf Classic, on Friday, June 20, at Lockhaven Country Club.

This golf tournament is in its 23rd year! This is a great way to support your local Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Agency in the endeavors for continued economic growth in the River Bend community. Over 144 golfers come out to enjoy a professional day of golf and networking with new and existing business partners.

Take advantage of the sponsorship opportunities to

market your business. Put a team together for an enjoyable day of golf at Lockhaven Country Club. Volunteer your talents the day of the tournament. The Growth Association wants to share this day with you!

Detailed information pertaining to sponsorship opportunities and golf teams can be found on our website at www.growthassociation.com.

For more information, please contact Joell Aguirre, Director of Member Services for the Growth Association at 467-2282, or golf committee chairman Larry Franklin of Cornerstone Bank at 465-5656.



Olin Community Credit union and KevCor Construction team up for a day of golf: Jeff Whittaker and Don Reedy of Olin Community Credit Union, Kevin Hilligoss of KevCor Construction and Allen Meyer of Olin Community Credit Union.



Larry Franklin of Cornerstone Bank enjoys the River Bend Golf Classic

Networking...It's A "Must" in your Public Relations Kit

Networking is one of the most important parts of a business's public relations plan. Everyone refers a business that provides great service. Everyone enjoys doing business with someone they know and trust. This is why one must network; therefore, educating people on who they are and what they have to offer.

The River Bend Growth Association promotes networking opportunities several times a month during the Business After Hours and networking luncheons and breakfasts.

On Wednesday, April 16th, the River Bend Growth Association hosted the Breakfast Connections networking event at Sgt. Peppers in Wood River. After celebrating with Waltco Tools, Small Business of the Month winner for April 2008, guests of this networking event participated in a speed networking drill, which took them "outside" of their normal

networking. Each guest was seated across from a potential business partner and educated each other on who they were, what business they represented and what type of clients they were searching for. Each guest walked away with meeting 4-5 solid community business leaders.

This networking event also allows each guest the opportunity to pass out their business cards and promotional material about their business. They also get the opportunity to showcase themselves with a one minute commercial on their business.

The next networking event is Wednesday, May 21, 2008 at 11:30 am at Moonlight Restaurant. Please call 618-467-2290 to make your reservation! The Growth Association would enjoy the opportunity to showcase the power of networking.



April 2008 Small Business of the Month winner, Charles Sanderson of Waltco Tools in Wood River, educates guests at the Breakfast Connections networking event on Wednesday, April 16th.



Speed networking was the focus at the Breakfast Connection networking event on Wednesday, April 16th.

Support River Bend Development...Join the Growth Association Today!