

IN THIS ISSUE

Welcome our Newest Members  
page 4

Upcoming Event  
page 6

Ribbon Cuttings  
page 4

Mayor Report - Wood River  
page 10

5800 Godfrey Road - Alden Hall  
Godfrey, Illinois 62035  
Phone: 618-467-2280  
Fax: 618-466-8289  
info@growthassociation.com  
www.growthassociation.com

**Education Committee Event to be Held in October**

On Wednesday, October 7, Lewis & Clark Community College and the Growth Association will host nearly 1,000 high school students on the campus of LCCC for their College and Career Fair. The Education Committee organized an event last spring for seniors; and because it was so well received by students, teachers and administrators, the event will be repeated for this year's seniors.

The students will hear Butch Lockley, a final four contestant from Survivor Amazon, give the keynote speech. Butch was the first person from Illinois to be chosen for the show. His humorous and inspirational message was a hit among last year's students. He will share how he got on the show, reasons why he wanted on the show and his "Believe In Yourself" philosophy. Butch will also be discussing goal setting, relationships, positive attitudes and give examples of events that happened in the Amazon Jungle. Butch Lockley has

over 33 years' experience in the field of education and coaching. He has served as teacher, athletic director, and coached various sports.

Representatives from financial institutions will talk to the seniors about the importance of their financial responsibilities after high school and give prizes to those who participate in the presentation. Human Resource professionals from Olin Brass and Alton Memorial will present to the students about employer expectations.

The Growth Association is seeking member businesses and organizations to participate in the Career Fair portion of the event. Similar to last year, the students will have the opportunity to visit with local employers asking questions about the various professionals their organizations employ.



Questions about education and training that's needed, types of duties and pay scales will all be encouraged. For information on how to get involved in this exciting event, call Jessica at 467-2280.

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

**Board of Directors 2009**

David Miller, Chairman  
 Denise Wolff, Chair-Elect  
 Kent Scheffel, Past Chairman  
 Mike Fitzgerald, Treasurer  
 Dale Blachford  
 David Braasch  
 Karen Cooper  
 Jeff Davis  
 Melissa Erker  
 Larry Franklin  
 Tobie Grover  
 Cathy Hamilton  
 Pam Heepke  
 Jeannine Kelly  
 E.J. Kuiper  
 Rich Laudon  
 Jeff Lauritzen  
 Rich Mersinger  
 Don Reedy  
 Cindy Roth  
 Rob Schwartz  
 Cas Sheppard  
 Jim Shrader  
 Cindy Smalley  
 Jack Tueth  
 Brenda Walker McCain  
 Martha Warford  
 Dwight Werts  
 Karen Wilson  
 Jess Woodman

**Ex-Officio Directors**

Mayor Kenny Beasley  
 Mayor Fred Bright  
 Mayor Steve Bryant  
 Mayor Felix Floyd  
 Mayor Tom Hoechst  
 Mayor Michael McCormick  
 Mayor Lynn Schreiber  
 Mayor James Spann  
 Mayor Tom Thompson  
 Mayor Fred Ufert  
 Supervisor Bill Ambrose  
 Supervisor Don Huber  
 Supervisor Doug Mueller  
 Dr. Dale Chapman  
 Brett Stawar  
 Debra Kreutztrager  
 David Elson  
 John Pearson  
 Sandra Wilson  
 Jesse Hopkins  
 Jack Jacoby  
 William Kessler

## July 2009 Ambassador of the Month Janae Hausman of Olin Community Credit Union



I am an Ambassador to the Growth Association and currently serve on the Membership Committee and Promotions Committee. It's been exciting to see how the Riverbend has grown and improved over the past three years. I feel it is extremely important to be involved with the community and I am always looking forward to meeting and working with new people.

As Business Development Representative at Olin Community Credit Union, I work with our select employee groups, lead our R'Olin Goldie's senior club, educate high school students on finances and organize many of our community events. Through my role, I provide area businesses with information to improve their employees' financial knowledge. I have enjoyed working with the credit union's members to help them achieve a greater level of financial security. Traveling with our seniors club is always an adventure. Whether it's taking 100 seniors to New York or visiting the Alamo and the River Walk, our group is constantly traveling and learning about new topics. I have worked in financial services for the past seven years.

As a local resident, I am originally from Wood River and I currently reside in Bethalto with my husband, Nathan, and our twin girls Morgan & Peyton. We are very active with Lifehouse Community Church in Roxana. I graduated from LCCC in 2006. My hobbies include singing, shopping, decorating, swimming and spending time with my friends and family.

**Bethalto District Embraces 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning!**

Offering state-of-the-art technology for staff and students, the Bethalto District is leading the way into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The district recently purchased over 200 laptop computers for all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students at Trimpe Middle School that will be distributed on August 19<sup>th</sup>. Teachers at Trimpe Middle School were given their MacBook laptops last December and have been involved in intensive training to help them infuse technology into their curriculum. Students will be allowed to take the laptops home with them after parents attend special meetings in September. The mission of the Bethalto Unit #8 School District is "Achievement for All" and we are hoping that providing laptops we will tap into the way our middle school students like to learn. The laptops will provide a 24/7 learning

opportunity and level the playing field for our students by helping our students learn the 21<sup>st</sup> century skills. Those skills include becoming a self-directed learner that relies on critical thinking, communication, and problem solving. We know that this powerful tool will bring excitement and more engagement into our classrooms. The students returned to school on Wednesday, August the 13<sup>th</sup> and are anxiously waiting to get their laptops.

In addition, the Bethalto School Board has gone to paperless meetings and in July began using MacBook laptops to receive board packets and conduct their monthly meetings. By being role models, the Bethalto Board of Education hopes to help lead the way into 21<sup>st</sup> century learning.

**Calendar of Events & Meetings**

8/27 Women's Seminar Comm. Mtg., Holiday Inn Alton, 11:30 a.m.  
 9/1 Quarterly Economic Update, Alton Sports Tap, 11:30 a.m.  
 9/2 New Member Orientation, Growth Association, 12:00 p.m.  
 9/3 Promotions Comm. Mtg., Coffee Cabana, 8:15 a.m.  
 9/8 Ambassador Comm. Mtg., TBD, 11:30 a.m.  
 9/9 Total Networking Luncheon, Castelli's Moonlight at 255, 11:30 a.m.  
 9/11 Women's Seminar Comm. Meeting, Holiday Inn Alton, 11:30 a.m.  
 9/15 "Let's Talk" on WBGZ, 0:00 a.m.  
 9/16 Women's Seminar, Holiday Inn Alton, 7:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.  
 9/21 Membership Comm. Mtg., Johnson's Corner, 11:00 a.m.



*Bethalto School District board members (Tom Beiermann, Doneeta Kallal, and Donna Harkey) doing training with Technology Director, Jay Stemmler.*

**August 2009 Small Business of the Month Winner  
The More Corner**

Congratulations to Sharon Connolly and her staff at The More Corner for winning the August 2009 Small Business of the Month Award.

The More Corner, located at 100 Homer Adams Parkway, is the first beauty boutique to feature Timeless Cover™, and Signature Minerals, both all natural mineral makeup. The More Corner is the *only* local retail store in the country where you will find Timeless Cover and Signature Mineral products as well as other quality beauty lines. This store was designed for all women who enjoy using makeup to enhance their natural beauty.

The store features a custom built

sampling counter where you can come in and play with all of our concealers, foundations, blushes, bronzers, eye colors, lip colors and mascaras. That way you can try all of the makeup before you buy any of their quality products.

To congratulate The More Corner on their award or for more information, please call 618-465-4100 or visit the website at [www.themorecorner.net](http://www.themorecorner.net).

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 or contact Joell Aguirre at [jaguirre@growthassociation.com](mailto:jaguirre@growthassociation.com).

Business Name \_\_\_\_\_

Owner or Manager \_\_\_\_\_

Business Website \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for nomination \_\_\_\_\_

Nomination submitted by (optional) \_\_\_\_\_



*Sharon Connolly and her granddaughters proudly accept the August 2009 Small Business of the Month award from Awards Committee Chairperson Amy Schaake of The Telegraph.*

**Missouri And Illinois Fare Well In CNBC's National Ranking Of Top States For Business**

Missouri ranked 14th and Illinois 25th on CNBC's just-released 2009 America's Top States for Business list. Both states significantly improved their standings this year as Missouri ranked 24th in 2008, and Illinois ranked 30th. CNBC scored all 50 states using publicly available data and input from business groups, including the National Association of Manufacturers.

The rankings are based on the cost of business, work force, quality of life, economy, transportation, technology and innovation, education, business friendliness, access to capital, and cost of living. This year, Missouri ranked 4th for the cost of doing business, 5th for cost of living and 6th for transportation and infrastructure. Illinois ranked 4th for technology and innovation.

Virginia topped the list as the #1 state for doing business overall, and Alaska ranked last. For a snapshot of all 50 states, please visit [www.topstatesforbusiness.cnbc.com](http://www.topstatesforbusiness.cnbc.com).

*Reprinted from St. Louis RCGA*

## Welcome our newest members to the RiverBend Growth Association

**Dayspring Financial Solutions, Inc.**  
Reid Mortensen, LUTCF, CLTC  
Authorized Bank on Yourself™  
Advisor and Life and Health Insurance Agent  
307 Henry Street Suite 306  
Alton, IL 62002  
(618) 463-5776  
www.finsecurity.com/dayspring  
www.wealthandwisdominc.com  
www.reversemortgagenation.com/  
reidmortensen

*Dayspring Financial Solutions is a financial services firm providing clients with solutions for growing and protecting their wealth through safe and guaranteed strategies. Reid Mortensen, president of Dayspring Financial Solutions has been involved in the insurance and financial services business in the River Bend area since 1980. He specializes in life insurance planning and is an Authorized Bank on Yourself Advisor™ and licensed life and health insurance agent. As an Authorized Bank on Yourself Advisor™, he has received extensive training in a proven financial vehicle that gives his clients the peace of mind they seek and deserve and provides a solution to most of the financial challenges and crises we face in our country today. Reid is an educator on the Wealth and Wisdom Institute staff, a group of professionals from across the country who are deeply concerned about the direction in which we are headed and the impact it will have on everyone's financial future. Reid also has expertise providing Medicare planning for qualified Medicare beneficiaries utilizing Medicare Advantage plans, Medicare Supplements, and Part D prescription plans. Reid is proud to be a member of the Greater St Louis Better Business Bureau.*

### Extra Help, Inc.

Rachel Clothier, Recruiter  
5214 Chain of Rocks Road  
Edwardsville IL 62025  
(618) 655-1212  
www.extrahelpinc.com  
*Extra Help, Inc. is a full service staffing agency specializing in direct hires, temp-to-hire and temporary positions. Established in 1994, regionally owned and operated, Extra Help, Inc. has developed a team with over 30 years of experience providing staffing services for both clients and workers. We have three Illinois locations to serve you in*

*Marion, Edwardsville, and Elgin. We also have one St Louis location. In 2001, the business was expanded to include Extra Help Payroll Services, Inc. With hundreds of payroll clients covering all 50 states, Extra Help Payroll Service is capable of handling all your payroll needs, including tax management, timekeeping and bookkeeping services. Our team of Placement Specialist and Payroll Processors have the resources to offer the Extra Help you need and will go the Extra Mile over and over.*

### Greater Alton Concert Association

Bill Stoutenborough, Treasurer  
P.O. Box 1069  
Alton IL 62002  
(618) 468-4222  
AltonConcerts.org  
*In September 1941, some interested Altonians set forth a plan to bring professional musicians, dancers, and theater to Alton and the surrounding communities. The Alton Concert Association was founded. The first series included the Von Trapp family, and was a complete sellout. Fast forward to the*

*21st Century: The goals of the GACA remain the same. We are striving to bring quality, wholesome entertainment to our community with the same passion, only now we are emphasizing the entertainment value. Our programs range from nostalgic big bands of the forties to lively jazz ensembles, talented vocal impressionists to superb choral ensembles, and from dance to the humor and patriotism of Branson acts. Five shows are presented each season in the Anne Whitney Olin Theatre on the campus of Lewis & Clark Community College. Season Tickets for all 5 performances are only \$75 and may be purchased by calling the GACA ticket line at 618-478-4222.*

### World Finance

BrandySue Pratt, Branch Manager  
159 E. Bethalto Drive  
Bethalto IL 62010  
(618) 377-0048  
www.worldacceptance.com  
*World Finance Corporation is engaged in the small-loan consumer finance business, offering short-term small*

*loans and medium term larger loans. World Finance is among the nation's largest small loan companies, offering standardized installment loans through 949 offices in South Carolina, Georgia, Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Tennessee, Illinois, Missouri, New Mexico, Kentucky, Alabama, and Mexico. We serve individuals with limited access to consumer credit from banks, savings and loans, other consumer finance businesses and credit card lenders. We are dedicated to serving our branches' individual communities, and helping those who have bad credit, no credit, or need to re-establish credit due to bankruptcy. The Company also offers fast and easy income tax return preparation services and access to refund anticipation loans through a third party bank, most often at much lower rates than competing tax preparers.*



**World Finance Corporation**, located at 159 East Bethalto Drive in Bethalto, celebrated their grand opening on Friday, July 17th. RiverBend Growth Association members were on hand to celebrate with manager Brandy Pratt: Dorrie Ball of QuickDraw Construction Disbursing, Amy Schaake of The Telegraph, Karen McAtee of TheBANK of Edwardsville, Bill Aery of the Godfrey Lions, Phil Kammann of Airport Bowl and Sarah Bolyard of Alton Square Mall. World Finance is engaged in the small loan consumer finance business.



**Country BBQ**, located at 130 W. Bethalto in Bethalto, showcased their new BBQ restaurant with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Monday, August 3rd. Country BBQ is a family owned restaurant that specializes in the BBQ traditions. They are available for dine in or carry out. Several neighbors and friends joined in their celebration, along with RiverBend Growth Association members: Amy Schaake of The Telegraph, Janae Hausman of Olin Community Credit Union, Gary Hoggatt of National Bank at Edwardsville, Linda Funk of Regions Bank, Jeff Maclin of WBGZ and Phil Kammann of Airport Bowl.

Support The River Bend...Buy Locally

**L&C Awarded Nationally Competitive Nursing Grant to Expand Healthcare Access**

Lewis and Clark Community College's Nurse Managed Center for Healthcare and Education has been awarded a continuance grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The \$882,639 grant will provide funding for the next three years as part of HRSA's Nurse Practice and Retention Program.

Lewis and Clark's Nurse Managed Center on the Godfrey campus is staffed by nurse practitioners who provide preventative and primary healthcare to thousands of underserved and uninsured residents each year.

"The continuation of this grant will allow the College to expand our healthcare services to the growing number of underserved and uninsured residents in our district," L&C President Dale Chapman said.

In light of President Obama's recent remarks regarding the importance of prevention and early detection as a means to eliminate unnecessary, expensive trips to emergency rooms, Chapman said the timing of the grant is critical. "The Nurse Managed Center's focus on education, preventative care, and providing

medical treatment to those who might not otherwise be able to afford it or access it, will prove extremely beneficial to the health and well being of our residents for years to come."

L&C's Dean of Health Sciences and Project Director of the Center Donna Meyer said the future of healthcare will be focused on nursing. "As the nation debates healthcare, and more and more people are finding themselves without access to primary healthcare, nurse managed clinics are an ideal way to increase healthcare access to thousands. Our own students will spend more clinical time in the community health setting throughout their education, which will surely become a national standard in the years to come as the nation turns to nurses to play a vital role in healthcare delivery to the rural and underserved."

Lewis and Clark Community College was the first community college in the nation in 2006 to receive funding through HRSA to operate a Nurse Managed Center. The original grant of \$645,000 allowed the College to reach multiple milestones within the first three years of the grant. Some of the major accomplishments

include: exceeding the anticipated number of patient contacts; developing and expanding partnerships with school districts, county governments, health departments, community health organizations, and other public service agencies; receiving the 2008 Illinois Rural Health Association "Special Exemplary Project Award"; acquiring and equipping the mobile health unit to extend the reach of services; establishing a campus clinic; expanding dental preventive services; and providing numerous health education programs for people of all ages.

To date the college remains the only federally funded Nurse Managed Center operated by a community college.

The Nurse Managed Clinic is located in Fobes Hall on the Godfrey Campus and is open Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. The campus clinic is open to everyone, and is not based on need. For more information, or to schedule an appointment call 618-468-6010. Walk-ins are also welcome.



*The Nurse Managed Clinic offers preventative and primary healthcare, and is located in Fobes Hall on the Godfrey Campus. Hours are from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday. The campus clinic is open to everyone, and is not based on need. For more information, or to schedule an appointment call 618-468-6010. Walk-ins are also welcome.*

### Do you have a Facebook Account?

The RiverBend Growth Association does. Become our friend and find out about upcoming meetings and see pictures from our events.

Search us as "RiverBend GrowthAssociation".

### Women's Seminar is September 16

The women's seminar, Passport to Excellence, marks our 10th year of empowering women from the Riverbend community.

**Social Networking**...do you know what this is and what it can do for your business? Twitter, facebook, my space, LinkedIn...are these words foreign to you? The RiverBend Growth Association and SCORE invite you to travel into our port and let Lori Feldman, "The Database Diva," educate you on the topic of social networking and how you can incorporate this networking opportunity into your world. The second stop on this cruise is to a port where Detective Sgt. David Vucich will touch on the need for safety in our world today.

Lori Feldman is known as "The Database Diva." She has been a direct marketing practitioner and consultant since 1981 and has helped thousands of business leaders and sales professionals make more money with their customer database and she's helped business owners protect their #1 asset—their customer list. She is a national speaker on mailing lists, database marketing and CRM. She is a past-president of the Direct Marketing Association of St. Louis who awarded her its top prize: The "Direct Marketer of the Year" Award. She is a certified ACT! Software Consultant and a Swiftpage Certified Drip Marketing Consultant. She holds a Bachelor of Journalism degree from the University of Missouri/Columbia.

Detective Sgt. David Vucich, Madison County Sheriff's Office, will educate us on the safety needed in today's world of internet usage. David Vucich is a native to the Alton/Godfrey area. He has been a Deputy Sheriff for the Madison County Sheriff's Office for approximately 12 years. He started in 1997 and performed 5 years of service with the patrol division. Vucich was reassigned to the investigative

division where he began working general cases (e.g. burglaries, robberies, thefts, etc.); however, was requested to start the Forensic Computer Crime Unit in August 2005. He has been active in cyber crimes since that time and currently conducts forensic examinations. He was promoted to Detective Sergeant in October 2007. He is a member of the FBI cyber crime task force and teaches a Computer Forensic Course at Lewis and Clark Community College. He has a bachelor's degree from Western Illinois University.

This event concludes with a spectacular lunch by the Holiday Inn Alton's very own Executive Chef, Ken Jaskiewicz, and a lunch presentation from Senior Travel Counselor June Webster of Damar Travel and Cruise. June will entertain us with information on travel tips, safety while traveling and some local "stay-cation" suggestions.

Your travel experience is sponsored by Alton Memorial Hospital, Arms of Love Pregnancy Resource Center, Beverly Farm, Cornerstone Bank & Trust, COPE Plastics, Donna Bemis of Lauschke Real Estate, Greenville College, Holiday Inn Alton, Imaging Center, International Association of Administrative Professionals, James Claywell of Edward Jones, Kuddes Advertising Specialties, Law Office of Katherine Smith, Logolt@Langa, Mr. Handyman, National Bank at Edwardsville, Oasis Women's Center, Olin Community Credit Union, Raifort Commerce Park, Riverbend Head Start & Family Services, Saint Anthony's Health Center, St. Louis Regional Airport and TheBANK of Edwardsville.



Attendees network at the 2008 seminar.



Seminar attendees visit a sponsor booth during a break.

#### REGISTRATION FORM

Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_ Cost: \$50.00 each or \$275.00 for a table of 6

Company \_\_\_\_\_  Check enclosed, payable to River Bend Growth Association

Address \_\_\_\_\_  Pay online at [www.growthassociation.com](http://www.growthassociation.com)

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  Please charge my MasterCard or Visa in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Name on card \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Number \_\_\_\_\_

Attendees \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## Business After Hours Buffet Blowout....

Thank-you to the hosts of the Buffet Blowout Business After Hours at the Wood River Aquatic Center on Thursday, August 20th: Apex Physical Therapy, Charter Communications, Hutson & Associates, Mr. Handyman, Olin Community Credit Union, Quick Draw Construction Disbursing and the Wood River Aquatic Center. More than 200 RiverBend Growth Association members and their guests took advantage of the networking and enjoyed the evening. Members entertained the crowd by competing in the water activities and were able to enjoy fabulous food and refreshing beverages. The hosts outdid themselves by providing a great evening!

Teams were recruited to participate in water activities: a diving board challenge, a water balloon challenge and finally, their physical Jimmy Buffet attire. Thank-you to the following RiverBend Growth Association members who entertained the crowd: Olin Community Credit Union, Wood River Park & Recreation, Wood

River Aquatic Center, TheBANK of Edwardsville, Quick Draw Construction Disbursing and Shell Community Federal Credit Union. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place went to the Wood River Aquatic Center and the Wood River Park & Recreation Department and 3<sup>rd</sup> place went to Quick Draw Construction Disbursing.

For a small donation, a dunking booth was also available, with proceeds benefiting the American Cancer Society. Employees from all of the hosts took their turn in the dunking booth and braved the rigid temperatures of the dunking booth water.

Thanks again to our August BAH hosts: Apex Physical Therapy, Charter Communications, Hutson & Associates, Mr. Handyman, Olin Community Credit Union, Quick Draw Construction Disbursing and the Wood River Aquatic Center.

Our next Business After Hours is Friday, September 25th from 5-7 pm at the St. Louis Regional Airport.



The August BAH hosts: Apex Physical Therapy, Charter Communications, Hutson & Associates, Mr. Handyman, Olin Community Credit Union, Quick Draw Construction Disbursing and the Wood River Aquatic Center

Dorrie Ball of Quick Draw Construction Disbursing kisses the pig for good luck.



Contestants line up for the water competition: Alan and Greg from Olin Community Credit Union, Jason and Jerrod from the Wood River Aquatic Center, Matt and Don from TheBANK of Edwardsville, Aaron and Shane from the Wood River Park & Recreation Department.

## Young Adults Committee Reaches Out into the Community

As the 2009-2010 school year begins, so does the Young Adults Committee of the RiverBend Growth Association.

The Young Adults Committee of the RiverBend Growth Association consists of two students from each of our member high schools: Steve Schmidt and Alex Schenk of Alton High School, Thomas Woelfel and Taylor Tubbelde of Civic Memorial High School, Brendan Carlisle and Sydney Crump of East Alton/Wood River High School, Ed Barrett and Steve Ditman of Marquette Catholic High School, Tyler Austin and Amanda Ashley of Roxana High School and Daniel White and Jacob Meisener of Southwestern High School and members from the RiverBend Growth Association: Rachel Clothier of Extra Help, Josh Erthal, Tim Gross of Hutson & Associates, Karen McAtee of TheBANK of Edwardsville, Sue

Mueller of Marquette Catholic High School, Jenny Robison of Shell Community Federal Credit Union, Amber Scott of Olin Community Credit Union and Cindy Smalley of COPE Plastics. The students, with the assistance of the Growth Association members, are encouraged to become active volunteers in their communities.

The goal of this committee is to teach students to work collaboratively with the common goal of benefiting the community at large. Students learn organizational, management and leadership skills through the process. Focus of this committee is geared towards non profit organizations in our communities and how these non profit organizations impact our communities.

For the 2009-2010 season,

the RiverBend Growth Association and our member schools have partnered with Riverbender.com in an effort to increase the awareness of non profit organizations within the Riverbend community. The students will attempt to increase the awareness of non profit organizations by organizing a community wide online contest, where 12 non profit organizations will ultimately win the opportunity to showcase themselves online at Riverbender.com for one month during the 2010 calendar year. Each of the 12 non profit organizations will be assigned a month on Riverbender.com for the 2010 year and during their month, that non profit organization will be showcased. The students will work closely with one of the assigned non profit organizations to help



The 2008-2009 Young Adults Committee

organize and implement their "site" on Riverbender.com.

For more information regarding the Young Adults Committee, please contact Joell at 618-467-2280 or jaguirre@growthassociation.com.

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

## St. Ambrose finds ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle

Students at St. Ambrose Catholic School in Godfrey wear red and think green. As everyday as their school uniforms, St. Ambrose students find ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle.

In the past year, St. Ambrose has added an additional paper recycling bin to manage the quantity of paper products collected. "The fact that we have three bins is a big deal," said Principal Cathy McGarrahan. "We try to encourage kids to think before they throw away. We saved many used notebooks from the dumpster by having some kids tear the paper away from the spiral binders. It was messy, but we placed minimal waste in the landfill."

The school also recycles paper to use in copiers. As companies change letterhead or have paper that they will not use, teachers use it in printers to file things away.

Other items recycled by the students include crayons, aluminum, eye glasses, and keys. McGarrahan explained, "We recycled crayons at locker clean out. We separated the useable ones away from the broken ones and donated them to an organization that could use them."

The broken ones were saved to be melted down and reused."

St. Ambrose has received grants from the Madison County Recycling Program for increasing the tonnage of recyclable paper collected. The school also has new playground surfaces made from recycled tires from Madison County Solid Waste Management.

This past spring, the following Trashformations projects were taken to the Madison County contest: Ellie Dixon and Kari Lohr (6th grade) "Royal Recyclables," Alex Davis (5th grade) "Recycle -- Join the Winning Team," and Natalie Ellebracht (1st grade) Lou's Drive-In." Natalie Ellebracht received 3rd place recognition. The following students received 1st place recognition from St. Ambrose: Amber Dyer, Natalie Ellebracht, Lauren Weiner, David Mathus, Garrett Weiner, Alex Davis, Ellie Dixon, Kari Lohr, Rachel Hanson and Kate Holtz.

## Lend a hand to those in need with United Way

A \$50 donation to the United Way will help provide a child in need new clothes and school supplies for the upcoming school year.

"A donation to United Way can help many people in a variety of ways, whether it's for visits to homebound seniors, swim lessons, afterschool care or flu shots," said Jim Hoefert, 2009 campaign chair for the Southwest Illinois Division of United Way of Greater St. Louis.

"This year, we know there are more families in need, many of whom have never had to ask for help, but are now finding themselves in tough situations. We need people to understand that every little bit counts."

More than one million people are helped each year through United Way-funded agencies. The United Way of Greater St. Louis funds nearly 200 agencies in 16 counties in Missouri and Illinois. Of those, 42 agencies receive funds through the Southwest Illinois Division, providing services for residents in a five-county region, which includes Madison, Jersey, Calhoun, Macoupin and Greene counties.

Last year, United Way-funded agencies touched residents living in the Riverbend area nearly 80,000 times. Experienced community volunteers carefully distribute donations to charities that

demonstrate high quality standards and results, including local agencies such as Alton Day Care and Learning Center, Boys and Girls Club of Alton, Boys and Girls Club of Bethalto, Crisis Food Center, Senior Services Plus and YWCA of Alton.

With a goal to raise \$66.5 million, United Way is asking people to lend a hand during this year's campaign. Of that, the Southwest Illinois Division plans to raise \$1.95 million. Ninety-one cents of every dollar donated goes directly to provide services that help our families, neighbors and co-workers become safer, healthier and more self-sufficient.

"The needs in our community are real and the economic challenges are impacting families and individuals that have never needed help before" said Missy Churchman, regional vice president. "Those of us, who are able to make a gift, have an incredible opportunity to help those in need."

For more information, or to find out how you can get involved, contact the Southwest Illinois Division of the United Way of Greater St. Louis at (618) 251-0072, or visit the web site at [www.stl.unitedway.org](http://www.stl.unitedway.org).

*Article contributed by Jennifer K. Hasamear, Southwest Illinois Division, United Way*



**MAYOR'S REPORT** – Fred Ufert, City of Wood River

2009 has been a year of progress for the City of Wood River. Our newest tenant in Wood River Plaza, Wendy's Restaurant, celebrated its grand opening in the fall. The City is currently working on four major developments that would revitalize and enhance areas of the City in addition to adding numerous jobs. We are very excited about these prospects and hope to announce good news in the near future.

Aventurs Development continues with the development of the 100 room Holiday Inn Express, restaurant, and gas/convenience store near the IL 255/ Rt 143 interchange. The 14 acre parcel is currently being considered for inclusion in the Riverbend Enterprise Zone.

The current year is the fifth consecutive year of a property tax rate DECREASE for Wood River. The current tax rate is \$.23 LESS than the rate of five years ago. The City's assessed valuation increased by 3.7%. The City is fortunate to have a stable sales tax base, as well.

The Rock Hill Trails subdivision, our newest "green" sustainable subdivision, has completed

installation of the streets for the Phase I section. To date, eight lots have been reserved and two display homes have been constructed and are open for viewing.

Approximately \$250,000 of stimulus funds have been allocated for the 6<sup>th</sup> Street overlay project. It appears the City will also be receiving approximately \$9 million in funding for stormwater improvements which will aid in alleviating flooding issues in the area of 9<sup>th</sup> Street to 14<sup>th</sup> Street. The City is starting the \$500,000 curb, guttering, and asphalt overlay projects for the west side of town in the Little Italy area and also the Berry Road area.

The City is now nearing completion of the \$2.6 million upgrade of the water system including new wells, water mains, high-service pumps, touch read meters, and much more. We are also continuing our asphalt program of replacing the oil and chip surfaces with asphalt throughout our residential streets.

We are excited about the continued growth and revitalization of our community through annexations, development, renovation, and capital improvements. I am proud to reflect upon our accomplishments and look forward to many more!

**Unique Kids Exercise Class**

The Alton YWCA is offering a new exercise class for kids this fall. The Children's Water Exercise Class is designed to meet the needs of a very important- and growing- segment of our community: kids who are unwilling or unable to participate in "normal" physical activities. Many children today have such a huge number of entertainment options open to them that things like physical games or exercise just seem boring. Plus, if a child is overweight or uncoordinated, participating in sports can be embarrassing and even cause injury. Not to mention the fact that an estimated 300,000 kids in the U.S. have been diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis or similar conditions. It's almost impossible for children with these conditions to get adequate exercise. That's where the YWCA comes in.

Judy Presley, who has been teaching the Arthritis Water Exercise class at the YWCA for many years, has agreed to teach a class aimed at kids. The class will be for kids 8 years old and up and will have limited space- so parents are urged to register their children early. The class will focus on improving joint health and body composition but will also encourage overall health and general

well-being. The pool is kept warm, as per Arthritis Foundation guidelines, so joints and muscles are soothed and pain is decreased. Also, if a child is not a natural athlete, remember that just being in the water makes everyone feel graceful.

The class will start October 5<sup>th</sup> and will be Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 3:30pm to make it convenient for after school. The Monday class will be ½ hour long and the Wednesday and Friday classes will be a full hour. Judy will be teaching a free introductory class on Saturday September 12<sup>th</sup> from 3:00-4:00pm to give participants a feel for what the class will entail. Parents will also have the opportunity to ask Judy any questions they may have about the class. We want to emphasize that this class is unique in this area so will probably fill up quickly. Please call or come by the YWCA at your earliest convenience if you are at all interested. The YW is located at 304 East Third St. and the phone number is 465-7774.

**Shop the Riverbend**

In efforts to keep the buying power of the Riverbend in the Riverbend community and to provide an additional free benefit to our members, the RiverBend Growth Association is developing a "Shop the Riverbend" program. The goal of this program is to retain buyers in the community who may buy products/services outside of the community.

Here is how it will work. Participating Growth Association members will commit to providing a "value added service or discount." The RBGA will compile these value added services/discounts into a "Shop the Riverbend" program, which will include a promotional campaign and a 3x3 card for all RBGA members to distribute to their employees. Employees who show this card to participating RBGA members will receive the value added service/discount.

As a business owner, we want you to decide what "value added services/discounts" means for you and your clients. Businesses will have the opportunity to change their offer from month to month. Each participating Growth Association member will have their offer listed on our website. A promotional program will be put in place to showcase all participating members' value added services and discounts.

If you are a member of the RiverBend Growth Association and would like to participate in this free and exciting, "Shop the Riverbend" program, please visit [www.growthassociation.com](http://www.growthassociation.com) and fill out the short form. More details will follow when we have a core list of value added services/discounts. Questions and comments should be directed to Joell Aguirre at 618-467-2282, [jaguirre@growthassociation.com](mailto:jaguirre@growthassociation.com) or visit our website at [www.growthassociation.com](http://www.growthassociation.com) and click on the Shop the Riverbend Program.

## Illinois Sales Tax Changes effective September 1, 2009

By David F. Vite, President & CEO, Illinois Retail Merchants Association

On September 1, 2009 there will be changes to the Illinois sales tax laws to account for the recent definitional changes to the definitions of "Grooming and Hygiene Products" and "Soft Drinks" as well as the addition of a "Candy" definition. Currently "Soft Drinks" are taxed at the non-food (high) rate, "Candy" is taxed at the food (low) rate and "Grooming and Hygiene Products" may be either depending on the "medicinal claims" on the label. Effective, September 1, 2009 each of these product categories will be taxed at the non-food or non-medicine high rate.

The definitions in the new Statute are taken directly from the Streamlined Sales Tax Project glossary of terms, so if you operate in any other State which uses these definitions and applies the sales tax rate to these products you already know how Illinois will treat specific items.

For more information, go to <http://tax.illinois.gov/Publications/Bulletins/2010/FY-2010-01.PDF> Following are the specific definitions directly printed from the new Act.

### Grooming/hygiene products

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Act, beginning September 1, 2009, "nonprescription medicines and drugs" does not include grooming and hygiene products. For purposes of this Section, "grooming and hygiene products" includes, but is not limited to, soaps and cleaning solutions, shampoo, toothpaste, mouthwash, antiperspirants, and sun tan lotions and screens, unless those products are available by prescription only, regardless of whether the products meet the definition of "over-the-counter-drugs". For the purposes of this paragraph, "over-the-counter-drug" means a drug for human use that contains a label that identifies the product as a drug as required by 21 C.F.R. § 201.66. The "over-the-counter-drug" label includes: (A) A "Drug Facts" panel; or (B) A statement of the "active ingredient(s)" with a list of those with a list of those ingredients contained in the compound, substance or preparation.

### Personal grooming and hygiene products

Grooming and personal hygiene products for humans are taxed as general merchandise (high rate) whether

or not they make a medicinal claim, unless sold as a result of a prescription.

**Soft Drinks** - Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Act, beginning September 1, 2009, "soft drinks" mean non-alcoholic beverages that contain natural or artificial sweeteners. "Soft drinks" do not include beverages that contain milk or milk products, soy, rice or similar milk substitutes, or greater than 50% of vegetable or fruit juice by volume. The definition of "soft drink" has changed. "Soft drink" is any non-alcoholic beverage containing natural or artificial sweeteners. Exception: "Soft drink" does not include any beverage containing milk or milk products, soy, rice or similar milk substitutes, unsweetened teas, drinks with greater than 50 percent of vegetable or fruit juice by volume, and carbonated or uncarbonated water that contains no natural or artificial sweeteners. These remain reported on Form ST-1, Step3, Line 5a, and taxed as food (low rate). Note: All beverages sold at a restaurant remain taxed as general merchandise (high rate). To make the determination, you must check the ingredients label or package. If an item contains milk or milk products

or does not contain natural or artificial sweeteners, it is taxed as food (low rate).

**Candy** - Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Act, beginning September 1, 2009, "food for human consumption that is to be consumed off the premises where it is sold" does not include candy. For purposes of this Section, "candy" means a preparation of sugar, honey, or other natural or artificial sweeteners in combination with chocolate, fruits, nuts or other ingredients or flavorings in the form of bars, drops, or pieces. "Candy" does not include any preparation that contains flour or requires refrigeration. Candy has a broad definition. For Illinois taxing purposes, candy is a preparation of sugar, honey, or other natural or artificial sweeteners, in combination with chocolate, fruits, nuts or other ingredients, or flavorings in the form of bars, drops, or pieces. To make the determination, you must check the ingredients label or package. If an item contains flour or requires refrigeration, it remains taxed as food (low rate). If an item contains sugar, it is taxed as general merchandise (high rate).