

The RBGA Partners With Member Charity Events

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On Tuesday, December 8th, the Ambassador Committee of the RiverBend Growth Association partnered with the United Way by hosting a toy drive to assist the United Way's Community Christmas annual mission.

The Ambassador Committee is a group of Growth Association members who represent the RiverBend Growth Association as a public relations body. The main focus of this committee is to aid the Growth Association in maintaining our visibility in the community. The Ambassador committee provides this visibility by generously volunteering their time to attend our ribbon cuttings, ground breakings, open houses, and Business after Hours network events. They volunteer to work at our special events which are the annual Duck Race, Annual Dinner, annual River Bend Golf Classic, State of the River Bend Luncheon and the Women's Conference. This committee also assists the Membership Committee in the recruitment and retention of the membership.

A BIG THANK-YOU to every 2009 Ambassador Committee member for their generous gift of volunteerism: Bill Aery of Godfrey Lions Club, Nancy Baahlmann of Beverly Farm, Karen Baker-Brcnic of Alton Marina, Dorie Ball of QuickDraw Construction Disbursement, Jenni Beck of Beck Group Realty, Sarah Bolyard of Alton Square Mall, Mary Boulds of

the City of Alton, Sally Crook of Suncon Designers & Builders, Dorothy Droste, Linda Funk of Regions Bank, Jerry Gibson of the Village of Godfrey, Jennifer Hasamear of United Way, Janae Hausman of Olin Community Credit Union, Gary Hoggatt, Jr. of National Bank at Edwardsville, Phil Kammann of Airport Bowl, Debra Kannel of Cornerstone Bank & Trust, Therese Kuddes of Kuddes Advertising, Marlene Lewis of Alton Memorial Hospital, Karen McAtee of TheBANK of Edwardsville, Jeff Maclin of WBGZ, Jackie Parks of Liberty Bank, Dick Propes, Jenny Robison of Shell Community Federal Credit Union, Amy Schaake of The Telegraph, Lexie Werner of Lockhaven Country Club, Donna Thornton of Southern Illinois Real Estate Title Center, Pam Whisler of the Village of Godfrey, Denise Wolff of First Clover Leaf Bank and Tina Zumwalt of Saint Anthony's Health Center.

On Wednesday, December 16th, the RBGA hosted a networking event, Breakfast Connections, with a toy/food drive to benefit the Community Hope Center. Angela Valdes, Community Hope Center's Development Director, spoke to the members about how networking in the community helps her in her promoting

2009 Ambassadors



the mission of CHC. She also spoke on how donations are distributed into our Riverbend community.

For more information on the Community Hope Center and how you can support their community outreach efforts, please contact their development director, Angela Valdes, by calling 618-259-0959.

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

Come Celebrate 25 Years With the RBGA...

The RBGA's Annual Dinner event is Thursday evening, January 21, 2010, in the Commons on the campus of Lewis & Clark Community College. Registration and social networking begin at 5:30 p.m. with the program beginning about 6:15 p.m. and concluding about 8 p.m.



The RBGA is excited to share the accomplishments from 2009 and take a look at the last 25 years.

The RiverBend Growth Association is proud to announce that we have two longstanding companies that will receive the Small Businesses of the Year award. Congratulations to **Baxter Distributing Company, Inc.** and **Lyons Glass Company** who had equal points among the Small Businesses of the Month. Both companies have had an outstanding commitment to the community and the RBGA.

In addition to the presentation of the Small Business of the Year Awards, Chairman's awards will be given to several individuals who have served the Growth Association during 2009. The Ambassador of the Year award will be presented to an individual who has gone above and beyond in service to the Growth Association in the areas of volunteerism, member recruitment and member retention.

We invite you to come celebrate with our award winners. Corporate sponsorships are available for \$650, which includes a table for 8 for the dinner, recognition before and throughout the event, and a bottle of wine at your table.

Individual tickets are available at \$55 per person. Secure your sponsorship or tickets by contacting Joell at 618-467-2280 or jaguire@growthassociation.com.

November 2009 Ambassador of the Month Amy Schaake of The Telegraph



I have been an Account Relations Specialist in the advertising dept. of The Telegraph for 10 years. I meet with businesses and help determine which advertising plan best fits their needs, their plans and their budget. The Telegraph has been providing local and national news to the River Bend since 1852. Today, we not only provide print advertising options, but can assist with direct mail, search engine optimization and other online marketing.

I am thankful for the privilege to be involved in the River Bend Growth Association. As an Ambassador I take advantage of attending every Networking event that my schedule allows. These events have allowed me to meet great people, professionals, and business owners and give me the opportunity to share product and service ideas with them which contributes to the success of my career. I also Chair the Awards Committee, I enjoy delivering the Small Business of the Month award as much as the business owner enjoys receiving it!

My son, Brandon and I spend a lot of time outdoors. We both love fishing and camping and hope to be moving to the country soon. We would love to have a cabin by the lake; but settle for a fish pond by the patio! I've truly been blessed with my son and great family and friends.

President's Report

It's time to change the calendar to 2010! What other changes are you making for 2010? Change is Good! Change is necessary!



I knew there were many famous quotes about change, so I went online to look some up. Albert Einstein said, "Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results." Want to improve your business? Try doing something different.

If you haven't been utilizing your Growth Association membership, start using it. If you haven't been attending networking breakfasts or lunches, start attending or start sending a representative from your business. Is it hard to get away? Yes. Is it worth it? YES!

Francis Bacon, 16th Century philosopher said, "Things change for the worse spontaneously, if they're not changed for the better purposefully." (Actually, it was a little more 16th century sounding, and I changed it a bit.) Think about your processes. Most of them can be improved whether it's on a production line, an office procedure or a method of analyzing. They just have to be looked at or mapped out. Everything is changing all around you, you must change processes to keep up with the changes. Are you using social media to promote your business? Are you sending electronic newsletters? If not, you should be. Your customers are using new methods, you should too.

Have you ever heard someone say, "We've always done it this way"? That is like hearing fingernails on a chalkboard to me. Just because it's always been done that way doesn't mean it's the right way or the only way. I know there's something to be said for tradition, but traditions can morph and still be traditions. If you have traditionally only advertised during the Christmas season, continue to do that, but add another season. If you've always advertised only in the paper, try radio, internet or social media advertising.

It's that time of the year when we think of making New Year's Resolutions. Think of resolutions as changes – no one sticks to their resolutions but everyone can make a change. Make slow and gradual changes. Sometimes they can be so gradual that no one really notices. That's not a bad thing—there are a lot of people who just don't like change.

John F. Kennedy said, "The one unchangeable certainty is that nothing is certain or unchangeable." So what are you changing for 2010?

**December 2009 Small Business of the Month Winner
Budget Signs, Trophies & Plaques**

Congratulations to Budget Signs, Trophies & Plaques for winning the December 2009 Small Business of the Month Award.

Budget Signs, Trophies & Plaques, located at 333 E. Edwardsville Road in Wood River, is a locally owned and operated business for over 25 years. They specialize in creating and engraving a wide selection of products with state-of-the-art equipment, with a fast turnaround time...sometimes, with same day service. Budget Signs, Trophies & Plaques can help with the following needs: plaques, trophies, awards, nameplates & badges, magnetic auto signs, interior signage, ad specialty products, ribbons, business cards,

medals, custom company apparel and much more.

To congratulate Budget Signs, Trophies & Plaques on their Small Business of the Month award for December or for more information, please call 618-259-4460 or visit their website at www.AwardsByBudgetSigns.com.

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.

Business Name _____

Owner or Manager _____

Business Website _____

Reason for nomination _____

Nomination submitted by (optional) _____



RBGA Awards Committee Chairman Amy Schaake of The Telegraph presents Budget Signs, Trophies & Plaques owners Steve and Patti Lash with their December 2009 Small Business of the Month award.

Welcome our newest members to the RiverBend Growth Association

High-Tech Security Systems

Angie Riddlespriger
1108 Merlin Lane
Godfrey IL 62035
(618) 467-7000
www.high-techsecurity.net
High-Tech Security Systems is a new Godfrey business that provides technologically advanced security systems for commercial and business applications. High-Tech opened in January 2009. Wife and CEO, LaTourette (Angie) Riddlespriger, and husband/COO, Ron, employs 4 skilled technicians. The most popular items are their own High-Tech Security Systems brand of custom built digital video recorder (DVR) and the Honeywell Home security system. High-Tech's stand alone DVRs are built to meet each client's specialized security and surveillance applications. Their mission is to provide clients with affordable, high quality, and technologically advanced digital security and surveillance systems. Ron Riddlespriger lost his job last year, but the Riddlesprigers did not get discouraged. "We can't let this economy keep us down. This past year has been hard but we decided not to get discouraged and flat out refused to let this unstable economy get us down. So, we started looking for opportunities to excel". He credits his wife for coming up with the idea for the business although he comes from a long bloodline of businessmen. The Riddlesprigers plan to expand their business within the next year and become more involved within the community.

Madison County Child Advocacy Center

Carrie Cohan Executive Director
101 E. Edwardsville Road
Wood River IL 62095
(618) 296-5366
www.madco-cac.org
The Madison County Child Advocacy Center is a child-friendly place where children suspected of being abused are interviewed by specially trained personnel and children and their families receive supportive services designed to reduce the trauma of child abuse. The Center also coordinates a multidisciplinary team consisting of child protection, law enforcement, prosecution, medical and mental health professionals for intervention in cases of abuse. Established in 2002 and recently accredited with the National

Children's Alliance, the Madison County Child Advocacy Center has provided services to over 2,500 children who are the alleged victims of child sexual and/or physical abuse. In 2008, the Child Advocacy Center conducted 541 interviews of children related to sexual abuse and severe physical abuse. The Center is located in the old Wood River Township Hospital building at 101 E. Edwardsville Road in Wood River, Illinois. Please visit www.madco-cac.org or contact Julie at 618-296-5390 for more information.

Mr. Electric, Alton

Joe Eye
P.O. Box 10937
St. Louis MO 63135
(618) 310-0100
www.mrelectric.com
Since 1994, the professional electricians at Mr. Electric have been serving residential and commercial customers throughout the US and Canada. We get it right the first time, delivering the most comprehensive electrical services including installation, upgrade, knob and tube, aluminum rewiring connections, and repair solutions available. You can feel confident calling Mr. Electric, knowing that our highly trained electricians will treat you, your family, and your property with the respect and attention to safety you deserve. Whether it's hanging a ceiling fan, installing a custom-designed landscape lighting system, or rewiring a commercial structure, or other electrical services, you can call on Mr. Electric. We have the power to make things better!

Patchwork Plus

Jan Copeland Owner
Amy Bodi, Manager
62 E. Ferguson
Wood River IL 62095
(618) 251-9788
patchworkplus.net
Patchwork Plus opened in January of 1999 as a full service quilt shop, specializing in 1800's reproduction fabrics. In 2004, owner Jan Copeland began producing her own patterns, "Naked Without My Quilts", which are sold exclusively at Patchwork Plus. The shop provides an array of fabrics, notions, books and patterns and offers

quilting classes for everyone from beginners to advanced quilters. Machine quilting is available at the shop and is done on a Gammill Statler Stitcher and offers customers over 5000 patterns to choose from. Quilt restoration, repair, appraisal, and sewing machine repair services are also available at Patchwork Plus. For those who do not quilt, Patchwork Plus offers custom quilt services with T-shirt and Pictorial quilts being among the most popular.

Platinum Sound & Entertainment

Joseph Bolyard
716 Livingston Ave
Livingston IL 62058
(217) 433-6085
Platinum Sound and Entertainment is owned and operated by Joe Bolyard. Joe can provide entertainment for events of any size, including weddings, private parties or events at your bar or restaurant. He has an extensive music collection, as well as one of the largest collections of karaoke music in the area. He currently has over 120,000 karaoke songs. Along with a stellar sound system, he also has a full set of professional lights. With very reasonable prices, Joe will work with you to make sure your event is exactly what you expect, every time.

Serenity of Bethalto, Inc.

Angie Berlemann Owner
650 S. Moreland Road
Bethalto IL 62010
(618) 377-2224
Serenity Salon and Spa is an eco friendly salon, using organic and environmentally friendly products. We are a full service salon meaning that we offer hair, nails, skin and massage services. Serenity Salon and Spa has been opened for two years but just recently (March) has come under new management - the owners are Angie Berlemann of Edwardsville and Marci Shirley of Bethalto. Our hours of business are Tuesday through Fri 10-7 and sat. 9-4. Our specialty is that we are the only one stop salon in Bethalto with all your services under one roof. We have two massage therapists: Ann whose specialty is Swedish, sports medicine, oral and arthritic massages. She gives a 10% a discount for all active military and law enforcement personnel. Liz is also one of our massage

therapists specializing in reflexology, ear candling and salt scrubs. We carry Repechage, an organic facial line made of seaweed from the coast of France. Lauren and Angie are our skin care consultants. Lauren offers a paraffin facial through the winter months. She also is one of five stylists that offer all your hair care needs. Kylie is our newest stylist that has come to us from the Paul Mitchell School of Cosmetology. She is offering some great first time client specials. If you are in need of some relaxation, stop by Serenity Salon and Spa and pamper yourself or someone you love. There is a reason why our logo is A Peaceful Mind and Spirit. You can find us just minutes from interstates 55, 270, and 255. We are located at 650 South Moreland Rd. off Route 140 behind the Olin Credit Union in Bethalto.

Stephen Jones & Associates, LLC

Stephen Jones Managing Partner
307 Henry Street, Suite 411
Alton IL 62002
(618) 208-1469
www.JonesElderLaw.com
At Stephen Jones & Associates, we help seniors and the people who love them prepare for the financial, physical and emotional changes that come with growing older, and provide sound legal counsel during times of crisis. This can involve planning for a comfortable retirement; ensuring the best possible level of care in the event of incapacity; protecting hard-earned assets against the high cost of nursing home care; preserving and procuring eligibility for government assistance programs such as Medicaid and Veterans Benefits; and helping families cope with a Medicaid crisis situation. We can even help individuals who are already in a nursing home receive all the assistance they may be entitled to. Ultimately, our goal is to provide seniors and their loved ones with the peace of mind that comes from knowing they have a plan in place for the future and an experienced advisor during times of sudden change or crisis. Our firm's founder, attorney Stephen C. Jones, is a frequent lecturer and author on a wide range of Elder Law topics, and is a member of several prestigious professional organizations, including the National Association of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA) and ElderCounsel.



January 2009: Annual Dinner award winners: 2008 Chairman Kent Scheffel of Lewis & Clark Community College, Chairman's Award winner Loretta Dawdy of WBGZ, Chairman's Award winner Herman Seedorf of ConocoPhillips Wood River Refinery and 2008 Ambassador of the Year winner Therese Kuddes of Kuddes Advertising Specialties



Alton Securities Group enjoyed their corporate sponsorship at the 2009 Duck Race at Raging Rivers Water Park in Grafton in May 2009.

(right) Alton Memorial Hospital was one of 34 teams in the RBGA River Bend Golf Tournament: VP of Administration Doug Pytlinski, Manager of Marketing Rusty Ingram, Manager of Imaging and Oncology Services and Director of Finance Brad Goacher.



2009...A Year in Review...

Looking back on 2009 brings many memories. Thank-you to each of our RBGA members for your continued support!

Members enjoyed 26 networking events: 10 Business After Hours, 6 Total Networking Lunches, 6 Breakfast Connections and 4 Quarterly Economic Updates. We hosted 5 events: Annual Dinner, Duck Race, The Riverbend Golf Classic, Women's Seminar and the State of the River Bend Luncheon. We partnered with 24 businesses/organizations in ribbon cutting celebrations. We met and built stronger relationships with five of our local high schools. We hosted 10 New Member Orientations. We recruited over 85 new members to the Growth Association. Over 20 committees met consistently each month. Over 3000 volunteer hours were generously donated from our supportive members.

A big "Thank-You," goes out to our RBGA members. We look forward to a fabulous 2010!

(right) Women's Seminar committee members sponsored a seminar on social networking in September 2009: Angela McDowell, Maryann Cain of SCORE, Cindy Smalley of COPE Plastics, Angela Valdes of Community Hope Center, Lori Kuithe of International Association of Administrative Professionals, Nancy Baahlmann of Beverly Farm, Joell Aguirre of the RBGA, Geri Mathews of Holiday Inn and Karen McAtee of TheBANK of Edwardsville. Not pictured Chris Corby of Holiday Inn and Martha Cogan of SCORE.



2009 State of the RiverBend award winners: RBGA Chairman Dave Miller of St. Louis Regional Airport, Herman Seedorf of ConocoPhillips Wood River



Refinery, Karen Baker-Brcnic of Alton Marina operated by Parrot Point Marine, Victoria Conely of Jacoby Arts Center, Dale Blachford of Liberty Bank, Ed Morrissey of Morrissey Construction and Lori Ehlers of Alton Square Mall.



The RiverBend Growth Association celebrated 10 Business After Hours networking events in 2009. In August 2009, over 350 members enjoyed the evening at the Wood River Aquatic Center. Hosts: APEX Physical Therapy, Charter Business, Hutson & Associates, Olin Community Credit Union, QuickDraw Construction Disbursement and the Wood River Aquatic Center.



April 2009 BAH hosts: Baxter's Distributing, Holiday Inn Alton and Logolt@Langa.



The Robbins Road extension was dedicated in June 2009. Hartford Mayor Spann, Deanna Barnes of the Village of Hartford, representatives from ConocoPhillips Wood River Refinery, representatives from the State of Illinois and representatives from the communities who worked on this project were all on hand to show their support.

Growth Association Honors all 12 Small Business of Month Winners

What is this award called Small Business of the Month Award? What must a business/organization do to win this award? They must be nominated by anyone in our community and they must complete the application for consideration. Once the application is completed, this business's application goes before an awards committee of 12 Growth Association members. Each business that has a completed application is given a score for the following categories: years of service, number of employees, reputation, community service, appearance, innovation and response to adversity. The business with the highest score wins the Growth Association's monthly Small Business of the Month Award.

The monthly award recipient receives the following \$2400 publicity package: the opportunity to attend the Growth Association's monthly show on WBGZ talk radio, be our guest at the 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 Growth Association's Business Edge, displayed on the Growth Association's board that travels to Business After Hours and become eligible to win the annual Small Business of the Year award. Contact the Growth Association to nominate a deserving business!

Congratulations to the 2009 Small Business of the Month Winners:

- Hendrickson Collision Repair, Inc. - *January 2009*
- P.J.'s Professional Cleaning - *February 2009*
- Direct Floors - *March 2009*
- Triangle H Farm - *April 2009*
- Lyons Glass Co. - *May 2009*
- Baxter Distributing Co., Inc. - *June 2009*
- Alfie's - *July 2009*
- The More Corner - *August 2009*
- Healing Touch Wellness Center - *September 2009*
- Andy's Auto Body & Car Care - *October 2009*
- Alton Square Mall - *November 2009*
- Budget Signs, Trophies, & Plaques - *December 2009*

To nominate a business for the Growth Association's Small Business of the Month Award, please fill out this nomination form and return it to the RiverBend Growth Association. The Growth Association's Awards Committee will follow up with the nominated business and get them the application to fill out. For questions about this program, please contact Joell Aguirre at 467-2280 or jaquirre@growthassociation.com.

Small Business of the Month Nomination

Business Name _____

Owner or Manager _____

Reason for nomination _____

Nomination submitted by (optional) _____

Mail to:
 RiverBend Growth Association
 Attention: Joell
 5800 Godfrey Road, Alden Hall
 Godfrey, IL 62035
 Fax to: (618) 466-8289



Hayner Public Library celebrated with a grand opening in March 2009. State officials Dan Beiser and Bill Haine, former Foster Township supervisor Dorothy Nagy, and Hayner Library Executive Director Jeff Owen proudly cut the ceremonial ribbon.

Maurices Celebrates Grand Re-Opening



Maurices, located inside Alton Square Mall at 113 Alton Square in Alton, proudly showcased their new facility at their grand re-opening on Tuesday, November 24. Manager Emily Lueken toured members of the mall community, RBGA members and local mayors through their new facility and all of the new and exciting merchandise Maurices is now carrying.

RBGA members on hand to celebrate with the staff at Maurices were Dorrie Ball of QuickDraw Construction Disbursement, Amy Schaake and Johnny Aguirre of The Telegraph, Jeff Maclin of

Manager Emily Lueken of Maurices, located inside of Alton Square Mall, cuts the ceremonial ribbon at their grand re-opening on Tuesday, November 24th.

WBGZ, Tina Zumwalt of Saint Anthony's Health Center, Jenny Robison of Shell Community Federal Credit Union, Sarah Bolyard of Alton Square Mall, Linda Funk of Regions Bank, Therese Kuddes of Kuddes Advertising Specialties, Debra Kannel of Cornerstone Bank and Karen McAtee of TheBANK of Edwardsville.

Also present for the celebration were Alton Mayor Hoechst and Godfrey Mayor McCormick.

Serenity Salon & Spa



Owners Angie Berlemann and Marcie Shirley are excited to showcase their beautiful salon and spa at 650 S. Moreland in Bethalto (right behind Olin Community Credit Union).

This full salon offers hair, nails, waxing, facials, massages and several other miscellaneous treatments to pamper you this holiday season and throughout the year. Serenity has several employees to treat you to a day of relaxation.

Jenny Robison of Shell Community Federal Credit Union, Gary Hoggatt of National Bank at Edwardsville, Bethalto Mayor Bryant and Bethalto Zoning Coordinator Richard Mersinger joined Angie and Marcie of Serenity Salon & Spa to welcome them into the RiverBend Growth Association.

For more information on Serenity Salon & Spa, please call 618-377-2224.

Madison County Child Advocacy Center Celebrates Accreditation



Madison County Child Advocacy Center (CAC) celebrated with a ribbon cutting on Tuesday, December 15th to announce their accreditation. Executive Director Carrie Cohan and Madison County State's Attorney William Mudge proudly addressed the attendees in accomplishments since it opened several years ago.

The CAC provides professional intervention and supportive services to fight child abuse. Most importantly, the CAC provides a safe haven for children to talk about the physical or sexual abuse they may have experienced and to help in limiting the number of times a child has to be interviewed. Before the CAC opened, a child who was a victim or witnessed a violent crime would often be interviewed by eight to 12 different people before the case went to trial. Because of the CAC, abused children no longer have to endure such a strenuous interviewing process

Madison County Child Advocacy Center celebrated with a ribbon cutting to announce their accreditation. Several community leaders were in attendance for this special event: State's Attorney William Mudge, Madison County Chairman Alan Dunstan, Sheriff Robert Hertz, Granite City Chief Rich Miller, Wood River Mayor Ufert and many others.

and authorities are better able to prosecute abuse cases.

For more information on CAC, please call 618-296-5366 or visit their website at www.madco-cac.org.

39th Annual Mardi Gras Ball "A Celebration of Hope for a Cancer-Free Future"

Cope Plastics, Inc. (Jane and Steve Saale and Sherri and Mark Boeck) are hosting the 39th Annual Mardi Gras Ball "A Celebration of Hope for a Cancer-Free Future".

The Mardi Gras Ball will be held February 13, 2010 at The Commons at Lewis & Clark Community College, 5800 Godfrey Road in Godfrey Illinois. 5:30 p.m. Cocktail Reception and 7:00 p.m. Dinner, Live Auction & Entertainment. Black Tie Optional. Donation for a Table of 10 is \$750, Individual Tickets are \$75.

The American Cancer Society's Mardi Gras Ball will raise funds to support our mission of eliminating cancer as a major health problem through research, education, advocacy and patient services.

For more information contact Sherri Boeck at 618-467-7375, Jane Saale at 618-467-7349 or the American Cancer Society at 618-288-2320 Option#3.

MAYOR REPORT – Tom Hoechst, City of Alton



Despite a global recession and a challenging climate for new development, the City of Alton is bustling with public and private investment.

Public improvements include the completion of two major elements of the Riverfront Master Plan, the amphitheater and pedestrian overpass. The amphitheater played host to several family-oriented programs as well as commercially staged entertainment events during its first year of operation. A variety of small and large-scale

offerings are planned for the upcoming season. Complimentary to the new amphitheater, the center spans of the pedestrian overpass have been installed and will open for public use during the second quarter of 2010. The final phase of Riverfront Park improvements includes a boat landing, esplanade, and parking improvements. Additionally, preliminary engineering is ongoing for the planned Flood Memorial Plaza adjacent to Riverfront Park and the Argosy gaming complex.

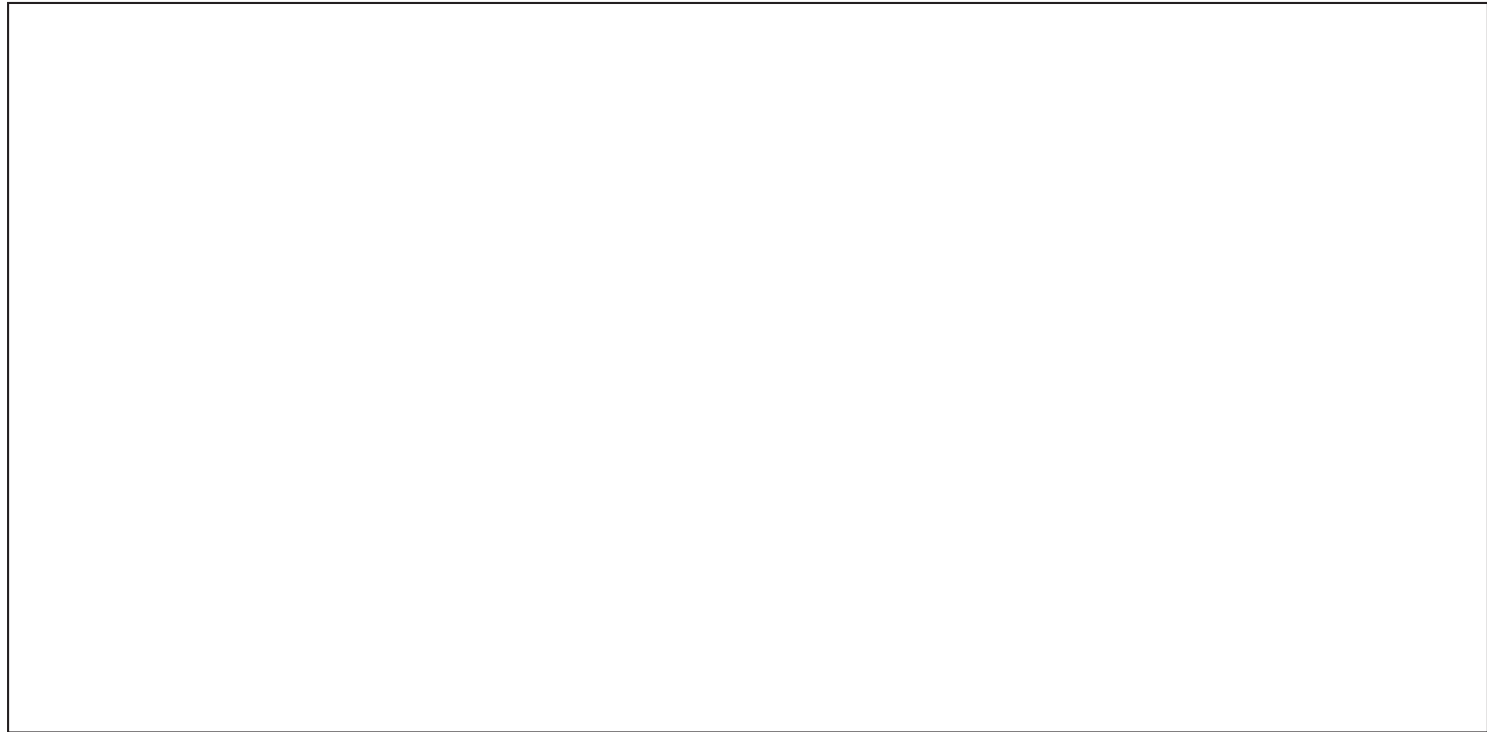
The ongoing revitalization of downtown Alton has benefited from the recent opening of the Madison County Transit transfer station. This \$5.9 million facility has transformed the aesthetic quality of a once blighted city

block and improves resident access to neighborhoods and community amenities. In addition, city officials continue their diligent efforts to attract a downtown hotel/conference center and associated parking improvements.

Significant private investment is also occurring throughout the city's key business districts, enhancing the current mix of commercial and retail offerings. One major development includes the renovation of the former Days Inn Hotel along Homer Adams Parkway. The planned improvements include renovation of the former hotel, construction of a free-standing restaurant, and a possible newly-constructed second hotel at the site.

Upper Alton has been bolstered by the planned \$7 million expansion of Community Counseling Center (CCC). CCC has broken ground on the 36,000 sq. ft. facility with planned completion slated for late 2010. Adjacent to the Community Counseling Center project, Washington Plaza has seen increased occupancy including Car Quest Auto, Little Caesar's Pizza, and several office tenants.

Although much work remains and challenges endure, the City of Alton is poised for continued growth and this administration is firmly committed to bringing additional private and public investments to this great city.



Thank you to our members who have renewed their membership investment for 2010*Members paid December 1 through December 15, 2009*

A Storage Inn	Demand Remodeling	Jun Construction Company	Saint Anthony's Health Center
Abatement Management, Inc.	Dept. of Human Services / Office of	Kuddes Advertising Specialties	Salvation Army, The
Agha Designs Jewelry Studio	Rehabilitation Services	Lewis & Clark Insurance Agency	Scheffel & Company, P.C.
All-Pro Office Technology	Dick's Flowers, Inc.	Long, J. Thomas, Attorney At Law	Schlosser, C.J. & Co., L.L.C.
Alton Bell Community Credit Union	Dippel, Betty	Loy, Everett	Serenity of Bethalto, Inc.
Alton Community Unit School Dist. 11	Donnewald Distributing Company	Loy, Kenneth E. & Company, P.C.	Shell Community Federal Credit Union
Alton Little Theater, Inc.	Duke Bakery, Inc.	Madison County Child Advocacy Center	Sheppard Morgan & Schwaab Inc.
Alton Marina, The (Parrot Pointe Marine, Inc)	Dyneyg Midwest Generation / Wood River	Madison County Historical Society	Slayden Glass, Inc.
Alton Marketplace	Power Station	Madison County Urban League	Smart Choice Auto Sales
Alton Memorial Sales Inc.	Eagle Publications, Inc.	Marks Mortuary	Southern Illinois Construction
Alton Museum of History & Art Inc.	East Alton-Wood River High School Dist.14	Marquette Catholic High School	Advancement Program
Alton Regional Convention & Visitors	Elias, Kallal and Schaa Funeral Homes &	Marshall, Jerry L., D.M.D.	Southern Illinois Real Estate Title Center
Bureau	Crematory	McAtee, Frank L. & Associates	St. Ambrose Catholic School
Alton Securities Group, Inc.	Elsah Village of	Midwest Occupational Medicine	State Farm Insurance & Financial
Alton Youth Symphony	Federal Steel & Erection Company	Millers First Insurance Companies	Services - Karen Wilson
Ameren Economic Development Dept.	FGM Architects	Mineral Springs Mall	Stephen Jones & Associates, LLC
American Cancer Society	Fischer Lumber Company	Mississippi Mud Pottery, Inc.	TAW Enterprises
American Red Cross	Food 'N Fermentation	Moran Economic Development	TheBANK of Edwardsville
American Red Cross Southwestern IL Chapter	Formea Animal Hospital	Mr. Electric, Alton	Today's AdVantage
Angela L. McDowell Counseling Services	Freer Auto Body	Mr. Handyman	Tolles Realty
Apartment Community of Our Lady of the	Gentelin's on Broadway	Noah's Wish, Inc.	Ursuline Sisters
Snows	Godfrey Knights of Columbus McNicholas Club	North Alton Godfrey Business Council	Veolia Water North America
Baxter Distributing Co., Inc.	Goulding's Jewelers	Oates Associates, Inc.	Villa Rose Senior Living Community
Beiser, State Representative Dan	Grafton Material Services, Inc.	Patchwork Plus	Wal-Mart
Bethalto, Village of	Greater Alton Concert Association	Pinnacle Industries, Inc.	Wegman Electric Company
Boeker, R. W., Company, Inc.	Greenville College, Adult Degree	Platinum Sound & Entertainment	Werts Welding & Tank Service, Inc.
Bowl Haven Lanes	Completion	Practical Rehab Services, Ltd	West Central Devel. Council - The Job Ctr
Bristow's Automotive	H2K Construction LLC	Pyrotech, Inc.	Wood River Hardware
CALC, Institute of Technology	Haine, Senator William R.	Region III Special Ed. Cooperative	Wood River Township
Carole Frew's Bridal & Tuxedo Shoppe	Helmkamp, Jack	Riverbend Head Start & Family Services	Wood River, City of
Carpenters Local #377	High-Tech Security Systems	Riverboat Lanes	
Castelli's Moonlight at 255	Hoefert, John, Attorney	Robert "Bob" Sanders Waste Systems, Inc.	
Chef Bob's Catering	HomeHelpers	Roberts Motors	
Clark-Wiegand Financial Services	Hutson & Associates, Inc.	Rock Hill Trails Subdivision	
Community Counseling Center	Illinois Business Journal	Rolling Hills Golf Course	
Cope Plastics, Inc.	Imo's Pizza, Alton Pizza LLC	Roth Evans, P.C.	
Corridor 67	IMPACT CIL	Rowens Kennels & Star Memorial	
Culligan Water Conditioning	Jack Schmitt Chevrolet of Wood River	Roxana Community Park District	
Datamax Office Systems	Johnson's Corner Inc.	Royal Office Products	
Davis, Mildred	Julia's Banquet Center	Safety Partners, Ltd.	