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River Bend Growth Association Hosts Annual Dinner:

Presents Chairman's Awards; Receives Recognition from AMEREN for Economic Development Efforts

Each year the River Bend Growth Association hosts an annual dinner event in conjunction with the Alton Regional Convention and Visitors Bureau to honor volunteers and supporting businesses for their efforts to move the River Bend area forward. Among the award recipients were two incredibly dedicated volunteers, a thriving small business and one of the River Bend's most remarkable investors in our community.

The organization's 2008 Chairman, Kent Scheffel of Lewis & Clark Community College, presented the Ambassador of the Year Award to Therese Kuddes of Kuddes Advertising Specialties ; Small Business of the Year Award to Dentistry with TLC and the Chairman's Award to Loretta Dawdy of WBGZ Radio and ConocoPhillips.

Therese Kuddes, of Kuddes Advertising Specialties in Godfrey, was selected as Ambassador of the Year. The Ambassador of the Year award is given to the member of the Ambassador Committee with the most accumulated volunteer time. The Ambassador Committee is a group of 36 people who assist in the promotion of Growth Association and its events and volunteers their assistance at networking events, ground breakings, open houses, Business After Hours events and more. Kuddes Advertising Specialties assists its customers in

promoting their products or services, using imprinted promotional items.

The Small Business of the Year Award for 2008 was given to Dentistry with TLC for their outstanding efforts and leadership in the community. Dentistry with TLC in Godfrey provides general dentistry, surgical dentistry and cosmetic dentistry.

Scheffel also presented Chairman's Awards to Loretta Dawdy of WBGZ and ConocoPhillips. Dawdy was recognized for her 25 years as a dedicated volunteer of the River Bend Growth Association. ConocoPhillips was given the Chairman's Award for its continued investment in the community, in particular their planned \$3.6 billion expansion project. Scheffel also passed the Chairman's gavel to 2009 Chairman, Dave Miller of St. Louis Regional Airport. Mike Kearney, manager of economic development for Ameren, made a special presentation at the event to recognize the economic development efforts of the River Bend Growth Association. He announced the Growth Association and the communities of Alton,



The 2008 Award recipients: 2008 Ambassador of the Year Therese Kuddes of Kuddes Advertising Specialties; 2008 River Bend Growth Association Chairman Kent Scheffel of Lewis and Clark Community College; Chairman Award winner Loretta Dawdy, a retiree of WBGZ Radio; 2008 Small Business of the Year winner, Dr. Anna Smith of Dentistry with TLC; and Chairman's Award winner, Herman Seedorf of ConocoPhillips Wood River Refinery

Bethalto, Godfrey, Hartford, Roxana, South Roxana, and Wood River will be recognized with the "Prepared" designation within Ameren's Partners in Development program.

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

2009 Committees**Ambassador Committee**

-Gary Hoggatt and Amy Schaake, Co-Chairs

Awards Committee

-Amy Schaake, Chairman

Board of Directors

-David Miller, Chairman

Education Committee

-Kent Scheffel, Chairman

Leadership River Bend Academy Committee

-Cathy Hamilton and Phil Kammann, Co-Chairs

Legislative & Public Affairs Committee

-Melissa Erker, Chairman

Marketing Committee

-Laura Reed, Chairman

Membership Committee

-Denise Wolff, Chairman

Promotions Committee

-Gary Hoggatt, Jr., Chairman

River Bend Golf Classic Committee

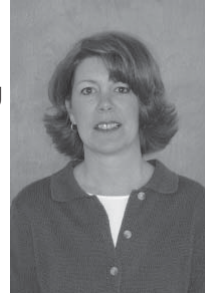
-Larry Franklin, Chairman

Transportation Committee

-Dean Sweet, Chairman

Ambassador of the Month**Therese Kuddes of Kuddes Advertising**

I am Therese Kuddes and my husband, Kevin, and I own Kuddes Advertising Specialties. I have been selling advertising specialty items since 1983.



I am a member of The River Bend Growth Association and have been since 1990. I currently am 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 also volunteer for the United Way.

I was born in Louisville, KY where I graduated from Mercy Academy High School and attended Western KY University. My husband, two dogs and I live in Godfrey. We have 2 sons, Ben is a Civil Engineer in Rogers, AR and Brian is an Assistant Golf Professional in Springfield, IL. I enjoy quilting and sewing.

Upcoming Committee Meetings and Events

- 2/3 Golf Committee Mtg., Alfie's, 11:30 a.m.
- 2/4 **New Member Orientation**, Growth Association, 12:00 p.m.
- 2/5 Promotions Comm. Mtg., Sgt. Peppers Cafe, 8:15 a.m.
- 2/6 Awards Committee Mtg., Coffee Cabana, 8:30 a.m.
- 2/10 Ambassador Comm. Mtg, TBD, 11:30 a.m.
- 2/11 Training Seminar "Being Mobile with your Business", TBD, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- 2/17 "Let's Talk" on WBGZ, 10:00 a.m.
- 2/17 Duck Race Mtg., TBD, 11:30 a.m.
- 2/18 **Breakfast Connection**, TBD, 8:00 a.m.
- 2/19 **Business After Hours**, Castelli's Moonlight at 255, 5:00 p.m.
- 2/20 Women's Seminar Comm. Mtg., Holiday Inn Alton, 11:30 a.m.
- 2/24 Membership Comm. Mtg., Senior Services Plus, 11:00 a.m.

Do you know of a business that has gone above and beyond the call of duty?

Nominate them for the Small Business of the Month Award.

Call Joell at the River Bend Growth Association at 467-2282 for information.

January 2009 Small Business of the Month Winner Hendrickson Collision Repair

Congratulations to Jennifer and Jim Hendrickson and their staff at Hendrickson Collision Repair. They are the RiverBend Growth Association's Small Business of the Month winner for January 2009!

Hendrickson Collision Repair is located at 6307 Godfrey Road in Godfrey and they are celebrating their third anniversary of being in business in the Riverbend community. Hendrickson Collision Repair expanded their building to include a detail bay and to accommodate their state of the art paint booth and computerized paint mixing system, which ensures an exact paint match and a perfect, dust-free factory finish. They've just launched a complete line of car detail products for sale. In addition to the collision repair, they restore antique vehicles.

To congratulate Jennifer and Jim on their award or for more information, please call 618-467-8810.

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.

Small Business of the Month Nomination

Business Name _____

Owner or Manager _____

Business Website _____

Reason for nomination _____

Nomination submitted by (optional) _____



Joell Aguirre of the RiverBend Growth Association and her Awards Committee members, Jennifer McGiffin and Sarah Neeley of Direct Floors awarded Jim and Jennifer Hendrickson of Hendrickson Collision Repair as the January 2009 Small Business of the Month winner.

Welcome our newest member who joined during the month of December 2008

Cornerstone Church

Phillip Schneider, Pastor
P.O. Box 136 - Bethalto IL 62010
196 S. Moreland Rd - Moro, IL 62067
(618) 377-7625
bethaltochurch.com

Cornerstone Church of Bethalto formed in 2002 as the result of a merger between two area churches. The two churches felt that they could accomplish more in working in synergy than they could accomplish apart. Cornerstone defines their mission as spreading the message of Christ through servicing their local community. Last year alone, the church was the sole sponsor of the Bethalto Fireworks, handed out almost 4000 bottles of free water at local community events, greeted each teacher in the local school district with free bagels and coffee on the first day of the school semester and hosted over 100 kids in their free winter basketball leagues. The church has also sponsored a free luncheon each year with over 60 local businesses attending. The church has tripled in growth in the past 6 years. Cornerstone is happy to help any local business with volunteers or supplies for any event that they may host.

TheBank of Edwardsville Kicks off 2009 With a Business After Hours Networking Event

On Thursday, January 8, 2009, TheBANK of Edwardsville, located at their newest facility at 1153 Vaughn Road in Wood River, hosted the first 2009 Business After Hours networking event for the RiverBend Growth Association.

TheBANK of Edwardsville was proud to showcase their new facility in Wood River, along with just celebrating a 140th anniversary in 2008. TheBANK of Edwardsville honors its tradition and history of quality service, community involvement and staff dedication by upholding its mission: We're Our Customers, Our Community and Our Employees! TheBANK of Edwardsville is a locally-owned community bank in the Metro East, with locations in Alton, Belleville, Bethalto, Collinsville, East Alton, Edwardsville, Glen Carbon, Granite City, Highland, O'Fallon, Pontoon Beach, SIUE and Troy.

February's Business After Hours host is Castelli's Moonlight at 255 on Thursday, February 19th from 5-7. Join the Castelli Moonlight team and promote your business or organization and attend this BAH. Please rsvp to receptionist@growthassociation.com or call 618-467-2290.



Thank-you to TheBANK of Edwardsville for hosting the January 2009 Business After Hours networking event.

Chairman's Message

David C. Miller, St. Louis Regional Airport



The River Bend Growth Association has always impressed me with its ability to perceive troublesome issues and respond positively.

Some of the association's victory notches include, the extension of Illinois 255, the reopening of the McKinley Bridge, weighing in with the county on the levee repair issue, lobbying for the new Mississippi River Bridge, and the defeat of the gross receipts tax, among others.

The year 2009 may be one of the most dynamic years yet. We seem to be caught in the turbulence of

two vigorous forces: the mantra for Change and the gale force damage to the economy.

Illinois' favorite son is now at the nation's helm. He campaigned on the slogan, "Change We Can Believe In". This should bode well for all of Illinois including the River Bend. There is a greater outcry, however, for change at the state level.

Our previous governor is in prison. Our current one has been impeached and is under federal indictment. Revenue diversion and corruption have been born out of acrimony, arrogance, and egomania. Many of the state's bills are not being paid. And we have not had a capital bill in over nine years! This is inexcusable.

We must vigorously support our own state delegation, Senator Bill Haine and Representative Dan

Beiser. These two gentlemen, plus a few others, have maintained the highest degree of respectability and decorum as they represent us in Springfield. They need our help and encouragement as they endeavor to restore respectability and trust in our state government. We must not allow them to feel alone in this challenge.

Our national economy is in an alarming downturn and its impacts are painful: globally and locally. There is plenty of blame to go around. But blame is always in the past; and we must move on lest we get bogged down with the depression of doom and gloom. Our economy will recover—eventually.

Education and training will be key elements in the economic upturn. The knowledge, skills, and abilities of the past will be inadequate for the future. Our region has an abundance

of educational and training resources nearby: some of it online. Check it out.

In the mean time, we can take advantage of the quality of life features that are abundant in the River Bend. Ride the bike trails; take in some concerts; volunteer some time to a charity; try out for little theater; run the tow simulator at the lock and dam; picnic in the parks. Make up your own list. Dwell on the positives.

The River Bend Growth Association is offering many features and benefits that can help lobby for change and prepare you and your business for economic recovery. The employees, members, and volunteers are here to help you. Let's discuss.

LEADERSHIP... IS WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT.



David Miller
Chairman
St. Louis Regional Airport



Kent Scheffel
Past Chairman
LCCC



Denise Wolff
Chair-Elect
First Clover Leaf Bank



Mike Fitzgerald
Treasurer
Scheffel & Company



Dale Blachford
Liberty Bank



Cathy Hamilton
BarberMurphy Group



Pam Heepke
Rairfort Properties



Jeannine Kelly
Alton Steel, Inc.



EJ Kuiper
Saint Anthony's Health Center



Rich Laudon
Argosy Alton



Rob Schwartz
TheBANK of Edwardsville



Cas Sheppard
Sheppard, Morgan & Schwaab Inc.



Jim Shrader
The Telegraph



Cindy Smalley
Cope Plastics Inc.



Jack Tueth
Int. Brotherhood of Electrical Workers #649

Support The River Bend...Buy Locally

MEET OUR RIVER BEND LEADERS FOR 2009.



David Braasch
*Alton Memorial
Hospital*



Karen Cooper
American Water



Jeff Davis
Phone Masters Ltd.



Melissa Erker
ConocoPhillips



Larry Franklin
*Cornerstone Bank
& Trust, N.A.*



Tobie Grover
Ameren



Jeff Lauritzen
Regions Bank



Brenda Walker McCain
*Madison County
Urban League*



Rich Mersinger
Village of Bethalto



Don Reedy
*Olin Community
Credit Union*



Cindy Roth
City of Alton



Bill St. Peters
Safety Partners Ltd



Martha Warford
Beverly Farm



Dwight Werts
*Werts Welding &
Tank Service Inc.*



Karen Wilson
*State Farm Insurance
& Financial Services*



Jess Woodman
*Woodman Collision
Center*

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

Welcome our newest board members for River Bend Growth Association

E.J. Kuiper is President and CEO of Saint Anthony's Health Center in Alton, Illinois. E.J. started his healthcare career as a Physical Therapist in Fort Myers, Florida. After several years of direct patient care and clinical management positions, he worked in executive management positions within facilities owned by HCA (Hospital Corporation of America). E.J. came to Alton in 2006 to work with the Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George at Saint Anthony's Health Center. He is a Fellow with the American College of Healthcare Executives and holds a Master in Health Administration and a Doctorate in Health Sciences.

Rich Laudon has been with Argosy Casino Alton since February of 1999 serving as the Director of Casino Operations until he was promoted to the position of Vice President & General Manager in March of 2002. He joined Argosy from the Sky Ute Lodge and Casino in the Durango area of Colorado, where he was the General Manager. Rich has 27 years of casino experience including management positions with Carnival Casino Hotels in Ontario, Canada; Womack's of Cripple Creek, Colorado; Harrah's in Lake Tahoe and New Orleans, as well as the Trump organization in Atlantic City. Rich began his casino career path in 1975 in Lake Tahoe, Nevada to support his avid interest in

snow skiing. Rich is originally from Kansas City, Missouri and holds a B.S. Degree from the University of Tulsa.

Jeff Lauritzen is a Vice President and Community Banker with Regions Bank in East Alton, Illinois. He joined Regions Bank in 2004. Jeff received his BS from Illinois State University and his MBA from Northern Illinois University, and he has over 15 years of banking experience. He currently serves as Treasurer of the East End Improvement Association and is a United Way Allocation Committee member. He and his family are also active at St. Ambrose Catholic Church in Godfrey.

Cynthia A. (Keller) Roth is City Treasurer for the City of Alton. She is a lifelong resident of the City of Alton attending St. Mary's Grade School, Marquette High School and Lewis and Clark Community College. She started working in the City Treasurer's Office in 1977, was appointed Deputy Treasurer in 1990, appointed City Treasurer in 2004 and elected as City Treasurer in 2005. Cindy currently serves as a board member for the Alton Regional Convention and Visitor's Bureau, the Alton Police Pension Board of Trustees and the Alton Firemen's Pension Fund.

Cas Sheppard is the President

of Sheppard, Morgan and Schwaab, a Civil Engineering and Surveying Corporation employing 30 people with offices in Alton and Granite City. He is a lifelong resident of the Riverbend area. Cas is the fourth generation of civil engineers that have worked in the firm. Cas attended Alton Public Schools and he graduated from the University of Missouri-Rolla. He is licensed as a Professional Engineer in Illinois and Missouri. Cas has served on the Boards of Pride, Marquette Catholic High School, United Way, East Alton Ice Arena, Community Counseling and is a member of the Leadership Council.

Dwight A. Werts is President and CEO of Werts Welding & Tank Service, a nationwide tank truck supplier with 6 locations in the United States. Dwight is a past chairman of the Growth Association, a member and past chairman of the Lewis & Clark College Foundation, a member and Vice President of the Marquette High School foundation and a member of the St. Anthony's Health Board.

Karen Wilson is a life-long resident of the Riverbend area. She is a local State Farm agent with her office at 225 Tolle Lane in Godfrey. Prior to her joining State Farm she was a teacher and administrator in the Alton School District. Karen is

very active in the community. She serves on the Boards of Pride, Inc., North Alton Godfrey Business Council, and Alton Woman's Home Association, as well as becoming a new member to the Growth Association Board. She rings handbells with the Upper Alton Christian Ringers and is active in her church.

MAYOR'S REPORT – Donald E. Sandidge, City of Alton

While enduring a tremendous downturn in the global economy, the City of Alton strategically moved to stabilize the local economy

and cultivate seeds for future growth opportunities.

The housing sector saw moderate growth as new construction rental units were completed and pre-existing home sales remained stable. Alton Pointe, an 84-unit mixed income development, greatly expands the availability of affordable housing and is approaching full occupancy. Downtown residential living continues to grow as the city assisted the development of 24 units in current or former commercial spaces. The City of Alton continues to encourage and subsidize downtown residential development through the Residential Tax Increment Financing Grant Program.

Commercial development along Homer Adams Parkway saw continued growth with the addition of Kohl's department store, Tractor Supply Co. and the planned Farm & Home store. In an effort to strengthen the Alton Square Mall and the adjacent retail corridor, the Alton Square Business District was implemented and the River Bend Enterprise Zone was expanded to facilitate redevelopment.

Construction activity increased in the past year, both in the number of permits issued and aggregate construction value. Total construction values exceeded \$51 million with

large-scale projects such as the Alton Memorial and Hayner Library expansions contributing largely to this growth.

As the local economy continues to trend more towards the tourism and service sector, the redevelopment of Riverfront Park is near completion. The 4,000 seat amphitheater and pedestrian overpass are scheduled for completion in mid-2009. The city also successfully procured new management (Parrot Point, Inc.) of the Alton Marina to increase its service offerings. In addition to these improvements, the "Lincoln & Civil War Legacy Trail" which highlights historic Lincoln-era locations was completed. Lastly, the City of Alton was awarded a \$200,000 Scenic Byway grant to create a flood memorial plaza in downtown Alton.

To adequately plan for future growth, the City of Alton has continued targeted property acquisition and due diligence efforts for a potential large-scale downtown development. To further these aims, the BridgeWest Task Force was instituted to beautify the U.S. 67 corridor from the Clark Bridge through downtown.

As the dawn of my administration draws near, we will continue to press forward with the development hallmarks of this administration: job creation/retention, in-fill and market rate housing development, demolition of derelict structures, investment in public infrastructure, and a diligent spirit to improve the quality of life in Alton.

President's Report

Monica Bristow The Growth Association's Education Committee is planning an event for all Senior high school students in the RiverBend on April 22 on the campus of Lewis & Clark Community College. The students will be transported from their respective high schools for a College/Career Fair and special guest speakers to make them think about their futures.

The day will start out with a keynote address from Butch Lockley, an Illinois resident and final four contestant of Survivor Amazon. Mr. Lockley will address the students with a humorous and inspirational message on how he got on the show and reasons why he wanted on the show with a "Believe in Yourself" theme. He'll discuss goal setting, relationships, positive attitudes and will give examples of events that happened in the Amazon jungle.

Students will also get a dose of the "Real World," a presentation developed by the Association's Education Committee based on feedback from local employers. The presentation addresses a wide variety of employment issues such as attendance, expectations, tattoos, piercings and attitude. It also has a "Believe in Yourself/ Pursue your dreams" theme.

The group of students will be broken up into four smaller groups with each group hearing messages from member financial institutions on how they should handle their finances after high school. The presenters will cover subjects such

as online banking, the importance of savings, student loans and the pitfalls of credit card debt.

More than 50 Growth Association members will be talking to these students about career choices, what those careers pay and what education they'll need to pursue those careers. Representatives from Lewis & Clark, Greenville College, Missouri Baptist, SIU-E and others will also be on hand to talk about their programs.

The event will give the students a well rounded view of career choices and a lot to consider. There will be information on banking jobs, medical positions, sales, nonprofit/ community work, journalism, entertainment, industry, architect and engineering professionals, retail and construction trades. With the new President's planned Relief & Recovery program, many jobs will be created. According to the Associated General Contractors of America, the Economic Stimulus Investment in Illinois will add an additional \$1 billion in nonresidential construction spending and about \$2.6 billion to the state's Gross Domestic Product, and about \$794 million to personal earnings and create or sustain 20,000 jobs. Those jobs would include 6,800 on-site construction jobs in Illinois; 3,200 direct and indirect jobs associated with construction supply materials and services and 10,000 jobs created when construction, supplier and service providers spend their incomes.

For more information on participating in the event, call the Growth Association office at 467-2280. We look forward to helping shape your children's future.

Thank you to our members who have renewed their membership investment for 2009*Members paid December 16, 2008 through January 20, 2009*

Adams Development Company
 Agha Designs Jewelry Studio
 Allison, Knapp & Siekmann, Ltd.
 All-Pro Office Technology
 Alton Marina, The (Parrot Pointe Marine)
 Alton Memorial Hospital
 Alton Physical Therapy, P.C.
 Alton Securities Group, Inc.
 Alton Steel, Inc.
 Alton V.F.W. Post 1308
 Alvareita's College of Cosmetology
 American Diabetes Association
 American Red Cross
 American Red Cross Southwestern Illinois Chapter
 Angela L. McDowell Counseling Services
 Argosy Alton
 Associated Bank - Alton
 BARBERMurphy Group, Inc.
 Belle Street Key Service
 Berg, Leonard F., Attorney at Law
 Bethalto Comm. Unit School District #8
 Bethalto, Village of
 Beverly Farm
 Bierbaum Steel Company
 Boeker, R. W., Company, Inc.
 Bold Enterprise d/b/a McDonald's
 Boys & Girls Club of Alton
 Brickman Orthodontics
 Camp Electric & Heating Co., Inc.
 Cane Bottom/My Just Desserts
 Carole Frew's Bridal & Tuxedo Shoppe
 Chef Bob's Catering
 Children's Home & Aid
 Comfort Inn
 Communication Concepts
 Community Title & Escrow, Ltd.
 Cope Plastics, Inc.
 Cornerstone Bank & Trust, N.A.
 Country Meadows
 Countryside Builders, Division of Galaxy Supply Inc.
 Davis, Mildred
 Dept. of Human Services / Office of Rehabilitation Services
 Droste, Dorothy
 East Alton, Village of
 East End Improvement Association
 Eastgate Plaza Partnership, LTD.
 Edward Jones - Greg Reinhardt
 Egisure Insurance
 Equity One Mortgage
 Exchange Club of Alton
 Express Employment Professionals
 Farmers Insurance Group of Companies
 FGM Architects
 Fischer Lumber Company
 FNB-- Bethalto Banking Center
 Foster Township
 Gentelin's on Broadway
 Getwebbed.net Inc.
 Godfrey Knights of Columbus McNicholas Club
 Godfrey, Village of
 Greater Gateway Assoc. of REALTORS®
 Green Investment Group, Inc.
 Hagen, Kyle B., DMD
 Hartford, Village of
 Helmkamp, Jack
 Heneghan and Associates, P.C.
 Hornsey Moving and Storage
 Illinois American Water Co.
 Illinois Business Journal
 Inlandesign
 Int. Broth. of Elect. Workers #649
 Julia's Banquet Center
 Jun Construction Company
 Junior League of Greater Alton
 Keister, Brian E. & Associates
 Kiwanis Club of Alton-Godfrey
 Kuddes Advertising Specialties
 Lewis & Clark Community College
 Lewis & Clark Insurance Agency
 Liberty Bank - Alton
 Lockhaven Country Club
 Loy, Everett
 Marcal Rope & Rigging Inc.
 Marks Mortuary
 Midwest Occupational Medicine
 Mike's Inc.
 Mom and Me Forever
 Morse Home Improvement
 National Tire & Battery
 Norman Brothers
 North Alton Godfrey Business Council
 P.J.'s Professional Detailing
 Personal Finance Company
 Phone Masters Ltd.
 Plank, Jeremy
 Principia College
 Provision Living at Godfrey, LLC
 Pulaski Bank Home Lending
 Quality Pontiac GMC Cadillac Buick
 Redline Detailing LLC
 Regions Bank
 Rental Property Owners Association
 Riverbend Head Start & Family Services
 RiverBender.com
 Ross Group Inc./Hillcrest Apts.
 Roth, Evans & Lading, P.C. - Christopher B. Hunter, P.C.
 Roxana Community Unit School Dist. #1
 Roxana, Village of
 Rull Bros. Propane
 Schwartzkopf Printing, Inc.
 Senior Services Plus, Inc.
 Serenity Title & Escrow, Ltd.
 Shell Community Federal Credit Union
 Sheppard Morgan & Schwaab Inc.
 Silenus Group
 SIUE Foundation
 Smith, Travis
 Southwestern IL Bldg. & Const. Trades Council
 Splish Splash Auto Bath
 State Farm Insurance - Fred Bright
 State Farm Insurance & Financial Services - Karen Wilson
 Steck-Cooper & Co.- Insurance and
 Bonds
 Sumner, Howell
 Telegraph, The
 Trails West Council #112-Boy Scouts of America
 UMB Bank
 United Community Bank
 United Methodist Village - Godfrey
 Unlimited Imprints
 Vantage Credit Union
 Wal-Mart
 Wegman Electric Company
 Werts Welding & Tank Service, Inc.
 Williams, Arthur R.
 Wood River Printing & Publishing Co.
 Wood River, City of
 Worcester & Bell Construction
 Wyss Real Estate

RBGA Hosts Annual Dinner (continued)

The Partners in Development Program helps communities enhance their ability to attract new business and industry, with participants receiving increased economic development support from Ameren as they improve their economic development capabilities. Ameren economic development professionals evaluate each participating community's local economic development program and the extent to which a community is prepared to support development, based on criteria such as planning, resources, available development sites and buildings. This assessment becomes a framework for future activities needed to achieve higher development levels.

"This is an excellent program and a meaningful tool to assist the Growth Association in developing our program to a level that will enable us to readily compete with the best economic development programs

in the state," said Monica Bristow, President of The River Bend Growth Association.



Thank you to all of the volunteers who made the Annual Dinner a success: Kim Maynard of Lewis and Clark Community College, Jenny Robison of Shell Community Federal Credit Union, and Janae Hausman of Olin Community Credit Union. Volunteers not pictured were Therese Kuddes of Kuddes Advertising Specialties, Gary Hoggatt of National Bank, Phil Kammann of Airport Bowl, Amy Schaake of Morse Home Improvement, Lexi Werner of Lockhaven Country Club, Dorothy Droste and Marlene Lewis of Alton Memorial Hospital.

Alton Mayor Don Sandidge accepts the Partners in Development award from Cheryl Welge of Ameren.



River Bend Growth Association 2009 Chairman Dave Miller of St. Louis Regional Airport.

