

the Business **EDGE**

RiverBend
GROWTH ASSOCIATION
Serving Business, Encouraging Growth in Southwestern Illinois

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RiverBend Growth Association Promotes Shopping Local

The RiverBend Growth Association is proud to announce its "Shop the RiverBend" promotion to the community. This promotion is a FREE membership benefit and program where members of the RBGA participate by offering a "value added service or discount" to all employees of RBGA member organizations/ businesses. The mission of this promotion is to promote shopping in our Riverbend community and to keep our dollars in our community.

The RBGA created a plastic card that showcases the Shop the RiverBend program, called the VIP Membership Card and this card will be given to each RBGA member to distribute to their employees. These cards will drive the cardholder to the RBGA website to see the great offers from our members.

Initially, there will be more than 17,000 cards in the community!

VIP Card holders should go to the RBGA's website, www.growthassociation.com and click on the VIP Membership Card icon. Then click on Participating Members and Offers which will display all of the

offers available. Currently we have more than 50 RBGA members offering value added services and discounts. We're hoping every member will take advantage of this benefit and have an offer in this Shop the RiverBend promotion. More information to add offers is on the website as well.

In order to entice more members' participation in the program and to share their positive experiences with us, we're going to keep track of testimonials on how this program

is working for our members; that is, what new business they got, how much increased business, a realization that there are thousands of Growth

Association members who patronize local businesses, and any other success story they can give us about this program. For every testimonial our members submit to us about their

SHOP THE RIVERBEND

The Growth Association Shop the RiverBend Program was created to help promote the mutual support among RiverBend Growth Association member businesses. You have received this VIP Membership Card because you are an employee of a Growth Association member.

As a cardholder, you have access to many significant value-added services and discounts offered by area businesses. For a complete listing of current offers, go to www.growthassociation.com and click the VIP Membership Card. Check back often as updates and new discounts are being added every day!

Click on the VIP Membership Card logo on our website to view current offers.



offer and discounts, they will get a chance to be featured on the front cover of our membership directory that's printed in April 2010. That directory is distributed to 40,000 residents in the RiverBend. What an opportunity!

The RBGA needs everyone's help to make this FREE membership benefit a success . . . both in terms of offering real values AND utilizing the offers from our RBGA members.

The Growth Association is here to help our municipalities, our members and the economy in general. We have a positive outlook for our region and we believe we can help our members increase their business—and one way is through this Shop the River Bend program.

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www.growthassociation.com

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Your Regional Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Agency*

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September 2009 Ambassador of the Month Gary Hoggatt, Jr. of National Bank at Edwardsville



Gary joined the RBGA ambassador committee in January 2007. He also serves as the Chairman of the Promotions Committee. Gary's advice for other Growth Association members, "If you feel like you are not getting any value from your membership, I ask you to evaluate what you are putting into your membership? Are you attending all of the functions or as many as you can? Do you actively speak to people and network when you do attend? Have you ever gone to the chamber office and sat with the staff. They are a wealth of knowledge and can give you many ideas of how your chamber can partner with your business for the benefit of everyone in the community. My advice is to connect with other members and be as active as you can."

Gary has been in the banking business since 1987 starting his carrier as a part-time teller. He has managed various branches for 13 of those years. He also spent 3 years as a small business lender and relationship manager. Currently he is the Assistant Vice President and Branch Manager for National Bank in Edwardsville where he focuses on residential mortgage lending and business development. In addition to his management duties, Gary is acting Security Officer for National Bank and keeps the National Bank website up-to-date. National Bank with headquarters in Hillsboro, IL has 11 locations serving south central Illinois. The Edwardsville branch, located at 1611 Troy Road, opened in May 1997.

Gary grew up in the Bethalto area and is currently living in Alton with his wife of 17 years, Donna, and their two children Ellianna, 9 and Micah 6. In his spare time Gary likes to do things with his family, read, play board games and enjoy outdoor activities when possible.

Gary graduated from Mississippi Valley Christian School in Alton in 1983 and attended Pillsbury Baptist Bible College in Owatonna, Minnesota, studying Bible and Elementary Education. He has also attended Missouri Baptist College, Lewis and Clark Community College and the Center for Financial Education focusing on Accounting, Business Law and Commercial Lending. In July 2009, Gary completed the Community Bankers School and graduated with honors.

Outside of the banking world, Gary is active with the Ed/Glen Chamber of Commerce serving on the Board of Directors. In addition, Gary is very active at Faith Baptist Church in Godfrey, IL where he serves on the Deacon Board, sings in the choir, coordinates and updates the church website and teaches a class for newly married and those with nursery age children. He also serves on the Board for Mississippi Valley Christian School.

Calendar of Meetings & Events

11/4	New Member Orientation, Growth Association, 12:00 p.m.
11/5	Promotions Comm. Mtg., Location TBD, 8:15 a.m.
11/10	Ambassador Comm. Mtg., Spirits Lounge/Temple Banquet Ctr., 11:30
11/11	VETERANS DAY Office Closed
11/12	Business After Hours location TBD, 5:00 p.m.
11/16	Membership Comm. Mtg., location TBD, 11:00 a.m.
11/17	"Let's Talk" on WBGZ, 10:00 a.m.
11/18	Total Networking Luncheon, Castelli's Moonlight at 255, 11:30

**President's Report –
Monica Bristow**

We're not the experts . . . but we know the experts. The RiverBend Growth Association is a great resource for businesses, organizations and our municipalities, but we're not the experts. We can get our members connected to the experts. Actually, our members are often our experts.

We learn about our members through their membership and we refer them to other members in need of their expert advice or service. We have experts in the banking industry, in the restaurant and catering field, in promotional items, in construction, in energy and so many other industries.

We bring in expert speakers to educate our members on subjects such as the Wood River and Southwestern Illinois Levee systems. We support expert groups like SCORE and the SIU Entrepreneur Center that can help businesses start, grow and expand.

At a recent Quarterly Economic Update we had an expert from Ameren speak on their Act-On Energy program. The speaker explained how businesses could save energy and get re-imbursement grants to pay for the energy saving methods they put in place. Several of our businesses reported taking advantage of the energy audit and intend to put those energy saving techniques in place. One of those members also sought another expert member to do the electrical work for his project.

We try to keep our members "Top of Mind" by promoting them on our website, in our directory, in our member to member newsletters and in this Business Edge. Our Shop the RiverBend program is our newest attempt to promote our members. There are more than 50 of our members who have figured out an expert way to get more business by offering value added services and specials. Check them out at www.growthassociation.com and click on the Shop the RiverBend icon.

Become a member and become one of our expert resources!

Welcome our newest members to the RiverBend Growth Association

Grafton Material Services, Inc.

Sam Rowlings
20855 State Highway 3
Grafton IL 62037-2437
(618) 786-3752

Noah's Wish, Inc.

Amy Maher, Board Chair
160 Niagara
East Alton IL 62024
www.noahswish.org
Noah's Wish is a unique disaster response organization, focusing solely on the protection of animals affected by disasters. Established in 2002, the mission of Noah's Wish is to save the lives of animals affected by disasters, through education, rescue and recovery services. We are dedicated to educating individuals and animal organizations in the United States and Canada so they will have the



skills and knowledge to save animals when disasters strike. Further mitigation efforts include partnering with emergency response agencies by offering a disaster management program for animals when these regional services are not available or adequate. And when the disaster strikes, we are ready with our teams of well-trained and experienced staff, coordinators and volunteers to assist the community to rescue and shelter animals until they can be returned to their homes. Since 2002, Noah's Wish has responded to over 20 wildland fires, five hurricanes and five floods. We have conducted volunteer training in approximately 60 communities, and we have made numerous presentations to the public and to emergency management professionals to raise awareness of the need to prepare your entire family for potential emergencies.

Oates Associates, Inc.

Jason Plough
100 Lanter Court, Suite 1
Collinsville IL 62234
(618) 345-2200
www.oatesassociates.com
Oates Associates, Inc. is a multi-disciplined firm offering civil and structural engineering and architectural services from concept through construction services. Oates Associates has provided planning, design and construction services in the Metro area for the past 25 years. Oates offers a wide range of services, including transportation planning, traffic engineering, highway and street design, storm water management, site design, structural engineering and architectural services.

TAW Enterprises

Thomas Williams
5100 Seminole Ct
Godfrey IL 62035
(314) 323-0983
www.theTAWshop.com
TAW Enterprises, LLC owns and operates www.theTAWShop.com, which is an internet retail store focused on offering women's trendy and fashionable items at competitive prices. We strive hard to provide you with quality service so that you will shop with us again. Our current product lines include items such as SwitchFlops, Biagi Designer Bead Jewelry, thousands of name brand Perfumes and Colognes, Candle Warmer Lamps, and Personalized Gifts and Handbags.

**October 2009 Small Business of the Month Winner
Andy's Auto Body and Car Care**

Congratulations to Mark Anderson and his staff at Andy's Auto Body and Car Care, for winning the October 2009 Small Business of the Month Award.

Andy's Auto Body and Car Care is located at 2444 East Broadway in Alton, IL. They have been in business for over 35 years servicing auto body repair work and car care.

To congratulate Mark and his staff at Andy's Auto Body and Car Care on their Small Business of the Month award for October, or for more information, please call 618-465-7006.

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.

Mark Anderson, owner of Andy's Auto Body and Car Care, and his staff are presented the RBGA's Small Business of the Month award for October 2009 from Awards Committee Chairman Amy Schaaqe of The Telegraph.



Business Name _____
 Owner or Manager _____
 Business Website _____
 Reason for nomination _____

 Nomination submitted by (optional) _____

WEGMAN ELECTRIC COMPANY -- Versatility and Growth Since 1938

No matter the size of the service upgrade, building project or capital improvement in the area, there is a good possibility that Wegman Electric Company has been involved with the building, maintaining or designing of its electrical or instrumentation system, or one similar. One outstanding aspect of the company's 71 year history has been its versatility and ability to manage and install any type of residential, industrial, commercial, institutional or publicly financed project.

From its beginning in 1938 as a small union electrical contractor owned and operated by Chauncy Wegman, the company has grown to be one the largest

electrical contracting firms in the St. Louis Metro Area (currently ranked No. 7). Wegman Electric Company, located in the Industrial Park at the St. Louis Regional Airport in Bethalto, is one of the largest employers of the Alton IBEW Local Union #649. Wegman Electric has been a member of the National Electrical Contractors Association for over 50 years. The unique partnership of the IBEW and NECA, which equates to well trained productive union workers and management staffs, has allowed Wegman Electric to offer, not only all types of electrical service, but pole line construction and maintenance, high voltage testing, and instrumentation testing and installations.

Robert and Donald Wegman managed the family held corporation after their father's retirement. In 1987 the Wegman's established an Employee Stock Ownership Program (ESOP) allowing the purchase of the corporation by the management and office personnel. The ESOP organization is now headed by Terry Buhs, the company president, and company vice presidents Michael Kalist, Mark Kratschmer, and Gary Bland. Under their leadership Wegman Electric Company continues to move forward.

Wegman Electric's ability to comprehend ever changing requirements has helped it continue to meet the needs of its customers. Wegman Electric has had a full time safety department and manager since

1994. With Tom Adams leading the way, and the addition of two more full time safety managers, Wegman Electric is recognized throughout the area as leader in electrical construction safety.

Wegman Electric's largest customer is WRB Refining LLC (ConocoPhillips). Wegman is proud to be part of the Wood River Refinery major expansion. This is largely due to Wegman Electric's continual evaluation of the needs of the construction industry. The firm's electricians, technicians, engineers and managers attend educational programs to keep abreast of the ever changing products, equipment, and techniques for electrical/instrumentation construction. This has been and will continue to be the formula for the Wegman success.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

Thursday, January 21, 2010
RiverBend Growth Association's Annual Dinner
"Celebrating 25 years"

Celebration of Success...

On Thursday, October 22nd, the Growth Association hosted its 16th annual State of the River Bend Luncheon in the Commons at Lewis & Clark Community College. More than 300 guests enjoyed an informational presentation from Growth Association President Monica Bristow on the "Shop the RiverBend" promotion, applauded six Captain of the River Bend award recipients and celebrated the growth and happenings within this River Bend community.

This year, six Riverbend businesses were honored for their achievements and were awarded with the Captain

of the River Bend Award: **Alton Marina operated by Parrot Pointe Marine** in the area of Government & Public Enhancement, **Alton Square Mall** in the area of Economic Enhancement, **Jacoby Arts Center** in the area of Community Involvement, **Liberty Bank** in the area of Community Involvement, **Morrissey Construction Company** in the area of Community Involvement and **WRB Refining LLC Wood River Refinery, A Joint Venture Between ConocoPhillips and EnCana** in the area of Economic Enhancement & Community Involvement.

Thank-you to our many sponsors who supported this event: Alton Memorial Hospital, Alton School District, Alton Little Theater, Alton Steel, Ameren, Argosy, Associated Bank, Carrollton Bank, Challenge Unlimited, Community Counseling Center, ComPAS Network Physicians, ConocoPhillips Wood River Refinery, Cope Plastics, Cornerstone Bank & Trust, First Clover Leaf Bank, Greenstreet Realty/Contegra Construction, Helmkamp Construction Co., Hutson & Associates, Illinois American Water, Lewis & Clark Community College, Liberty Bank, Logolt@Langa, Morrissey Construction

Company, Olin Community Credit Union, Phone Masters, Raifort Commerce Park, Saint Anthony's Health Center, Shell Community Federal Credit Union, Sheppard, Morgan & Schwaab, Southern Illinois Construction Advancement Program, St. Louis Regional Airport, TheBANK of Edwardsville, The Telegraph, Transitions Counseling, Village of Godfrey and WBGZ.



The 2009 Captain of the RiverBend award winners: Dave Miller, Board Chairman for the River Bend Growth Association, Herman Seedorf of WRB Refining LLC, Karen Baker-Brcic of Alton Marina, Victoria Conley of Jacoby Arts Center, Dale Blachford of Liberty Bank, Ed Morrissey of Morrissey Construction and Lori Ehlers of Alton Square Mall.



Larry Franklin of Cornerstone Bank & Trust



Over 350 members and guests attended the 2009 State of the RiverBend Luncheon

Support The River Bend...Buy Locally



Captain Award winner Karen Baker Brncic of Alton Marina and Alton Mayor Hoechst

Non Profit BAH Enjoyed by Many

Thank-you to all of the non profit organizations who participated in the October 15th Business After Hours networking event. The organizations were able to showcase what they do for our community and areas where they need help. Several organizations recruited new volunteers, found financial donors and educated more than 100 guests on the services provided to our community.

Thanks again to those organizations who helped make the Business After Hours a success: Alton Little Theater, Alton Marketplace, Arms of Love Ministries, Beverly Farm, Bluff City Athletic Club, Catholic Children's Home, Central Illinois Community Blood Center, Challenge Unlimited, Community Counseling Center, Community Hope Center, Department of Human Services/Office of Rehabilitation Services, Exchange Club of Alton, IMPACT CIL, Jacoby Arts Center, Lewis & Clark Council BSA, Madison County Urban League, Noah's Wish, Oasis Women's Center, Riverbend Family Ministries, Riverbend Head Start & Family Services, SCORE, Senior Services Plus, and Southern Illinois Builders Association.

The next Business After Hours networking event will be hosted by the area chambers of

commerce at the Gateway Center in Collinsville on Wednesday, October 28th from 5-7pm. Join hundreds of people and network with businesses from all over the Metro East area. This networking opportunity is free to all members of the chambers. Please rsvp to the RiverBend Growth Association by calling 467-2290.



Mike Drake and Jeff Lauritzen of Regions Bank enjoy beverages from RBGA member Johnson's Corner.



Grafton Mayor Thompson networks with Leonard Hawthorne.



Andrea Yoder of Arms of Love Ministries visits with a guest of the RBGA.



Non profit RBGA member Noah's Wish shares their mission with RBGA members Tom Hebel of Williams Office Products.

FOSTER TOWNSHIP REPORT – Supervisor Bill Ambrose

Nearly six months have passed since taking office as Foster Township Supervisor. It has been somewhat

hectic with the task of familiarizing myself with the duties of the office. Even though I have served the past 20 years as Township Clerk, it is challenging to change hats so to speak.

The Township has grown immensely the past 20 years

and I only hope my tenure as Supervisor will see a continuation of that growth in a positive fashion. I see my job as supervisor to be one where I am guardian of the residents' tax dollars collected to be used to facilitate that change through growth in an efficient and frugal manner.

Since taking office, the Township has upgraded its technology with a new and faster computer system, added security to the Town Hall, which includes a video surveillance system, and electronic access to the building, which provides a more secure environment for its employees

due to the remoteness of the location of Town Hall.

The Board of Trustees has approved looking at the possibility of expanding the Township Park to include the addition of a gazebo-type bandstand and the appointment of a Park Board to plan entertainment events for the residents. That project, in part, will be funded through the sale of engraved bricks, stones and benches which will be an integral part of that expansion.

To support all that we do in Foster Township, a website will be forthcoming to better inform

the residents of the services available to them through their Township government.

Current officers of Foster Township are: Supervisor – Bill Ambrose; Clerk – Dennis Herbert; Road Commissioner – Patrick Maher; and Trustees – Roger Wade, Bob Gvillo, Andy Batchelor and David Thornton.

Township office hours are Monday – Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

I look forward to serving the people of Foster Township.

MyiBANK Program Helps Teens and Young Adults Learn Fiscal Responsibility

Many young adults take jobs early in their lives, learning subtle lessons along the way about how to manage their money. While life experiences are among the best ways to learn money management, there are many teens and young adults who would benefit from a little extra guidance along the way.

Programs like MyiBANK at TheBANK of Edwardsville were designed to do just that – help young adults learn early in life how to manage money and save for the future. According to Tom Holloway, president of TheBANK of Edwardsville, “We recognized that a segment of our customer base would benefit from a specialized product so we

designed an overall program that would allow us to teach teens and young adults to take ownership of making sound financial decisions.”

Holloway explains that MyiBANK allows teens and young adults to take responsibility for the money they earn, learn to invest in the future, track and monitor their spending habits and build and establish strong credit history, just to name a few of the key benefits.

The MyiBANK account has a lot of other benefits such as allowing teens and young adults use of an ATM card, free online banking so they can watch their dollars and cents, and online financial education and instructional seminars where account holders

can learn how to make the most of their money.

Holloway adds “Retailers and credit card companies make it very tempting to open accounts and usually if a young adult is going to get into money problems it’s because they have bitten off more than they can chew. The educational resources we are offering will help young adults understand how to responsibly manage their finances, make good decisions about what credit opportunities they should pursue if any and learn how to make their credit work for them.”

For more information about MyiBANK, call TheBANK of Edwardsville at (618) 656-0098

or visit www.myibankaccount.com or any of TheBANK’s convenient locations throughout Madison and St. Clair counties.

TheBANK of Edwardsville, with its 2009 theme: “**Because We Care,**” has assets exceeding \$1.25 billion and a long tradition of providing personal service, offering innovative products and giving back to the communities in which it serves. For more information, please visit www.4thebank.com.



Egisure Insurance Celebrates Grand Opening

Egisure Insurance, formerly Affiliated Insurance Specialists, celebrated with a ribbon cutting to showcase their new location at 310 Easton Street, Suite 230 in Alton, IL. In attendance were Brad Kreider, President; George Milnor, Chairman; Steve Berg, CFO & SVP; Jackie Roth, Commercial Marketing Manager; and Wanda Fiorentin, Operations Manager.

Crown Vision Center Celebrates New Facility



Kitty Edelen of Crown Vision and her staff celebrate with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday, October 9th. RiverBend Growth Association members on hand to celebrate with Crown Vision are Karen McAtee of TheBANK of Edwardsville, Jerry Gibson of the Village of Godfrey, Linda Funk of Regions Bank, Jeff Maclin of WBGZ and Sara Bolyard of Alton Square Mall.

Crown Vision's signature store is located at 406 East Broadway in downtown Alton. They recently remodeled their store in Alton Square Mall. With a new location, just behind the escalators on the first floor, new lighting and more space, Crown Vision is able to showcase their entire inventory of current trends.

For more information on Crown Vision Center, please contact 618-462-7611 or visit their website at www.CrownVisionCenter.com.



Apex Physical Therapy Director of Business Development John Hettenhausen joins his staff in a ribbon cutting ceremony to showcase their Wood River facility.

Apex Physical Therapy showcased their newest facility at 1138 Vaughn Road in Wood River on September 23rd.

Apex Physical Therapy has been providing comprehensive physical, industrial and sports rehabilitation since 1997. Their facility in Wood River makes 11 facilities in our Metro East area. For more information about the services provided by Apex Physical Therapy, please visit their website at www.apex.us.

RiverBend Growth Association members on hand to welcome Apex Physical Therapy into our RiverBend community were: Jennifer Hasamear of United Way, Dave Miller of St. Louis Regional Airport, Bill Aery of Godfrey Lions, Janae Hausman of Olin Community Credit Union, TheBANK of Edwardsville employees Karen McAtee, Rhonda Pluester and Pat Devening, Reid Mortensen of DaySpring Financial Solutions, Dorrie Ball of Quick Draw Construction Disbursing, Gary Hoggatt of National Bank at Edwardsville, Jerry Gibson of the Village of Godfrey and Sarah Bolyard of Alton Square Mall.

Julia's Banquet Center Reopens in East Alton



Julia and Todd Kennedy cut the ceremonial ribbon at their celebration of their grand reopening on October 8th.

Julia's Banquet Center reopened their doors in October 2009 at their new location of 101 Eastgate Plaza in East Alton.

What a beautiful resource this is for our community, with four rooms to choose from to entertain in. The largest room can hold nearly 400 people and the smallest room can hold 96. To add a personal family touch to this facility, these four rooms are named for a family member to honor their efforts in this relocation. The décor is beautiful and there is enough parking to handle any size of group. To book your next party, contact Julia's Banquet Center at 618-660-8204.