

A monthly publication of the RiverBend Growth Association...  
Your Regional Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Agency



**MAY 2016**

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## RBGA Annual Duck Race is Thursday, June 2



The RBGA and cohosts are excited to host the annual Duck Race on Thursday, June 2, 2016 from 5pm to 7pm at Raging Rivers WaterPark in Grafton.

Thank you to our Co-Hosts for 2016 participation: Alton Memorial Hospital, American Water, Freer Auto Body, Raging Rivers Water Park, St. Peters Hardware & Rental, Scott Credit Union and The Telegraph.

The Duck Race is the largest networking event of the summer with endless opportunities to learn about new and existing businesses and organizations. Enjoy an evening of tasty food and beverages from the following RBGA members: Alton Sports Tap, Argosy featuring Hops House menu items, Atrium Hotel & Conference Center, Donnewald Distributing, Grafton Winery & Brewery, Loading Dock, Old Bakery Beer Co., Raging Rivers WaterPark, and Robert "Chick" Fritz.

Tropical drinks are back by popular demand, sponsored by Raifort Properties.

The Duck Race is a great way to promote your business: employees, products and services. Sponsorships are available to utilize this event as this promotional resource. Corporate sponsorships are still available so please call today to reserve your spot. Deadline is

May 27.

Please consider donating a prize for the duck race that starts at

6:30pm. Suggested prizes are themed baskets, gift certificates, event tickets to the Cardinals, the Muny, the Fox, etc. Nearly 2,000 plastic ducks are entered into the race and the first 150 win prizes.

Thank you to everyone that has donated a prize. Please visit [http://www.growthassociation.com/media/pdf/Duck2016\\_prizes.pdf](http://www.growthassociation.com/media/pdf/Duck2016_prizes.pdf) to explore the list of Prize Donors.

Thank you to the following RBGA members for their Corporate or Booth sponsorship at the Duck Race:

1<sup>st</sup> MidAmerica Credit Union, Advantage NEWS, Airport Plaza Bowl, Alton Comm. Unit School District 11, Alton Little Theater, Ameren Illinois, Andy's Auto Body & Car Care, ApexNetwork Physical Therapy, Associated Bank, Beverly Farm, Bliss, Bowl Haven Lanes, Challenge Unlimited, C.J. Schlosser & Company, Claywell Asset Management, CNB Bank & Trust, Contegra Construction, Cope Plastics, Donnewald Distributing, Dream Home Realty Center, Hansen Meat Co, Hit n Run, Integrity Healthcare of Alton, Investment Planners, Jacoby Arts Center, JCH Healthcare,



Jersey State Bank, Liberty Bank, Loading Dock, MedExpress Urgent Care, Midwest Members Federal Credit Union, OSF St. Anthony's Health Center, Partners Insurance Agency, Prestige Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning, Phillips 66 Wood River Refinery, Quality Buick GMC Cadillac, Riverbend Pediatric Dentistry, Robert "Chick" Fritz, Roberts Motors, Schiber Truck, Sheppard Morgan & Schwaab, Senator William Haine, Simmons Hanly Conroy, SNIP Alliance, SSM Physical Therapy, TheBANK of Edwardsville, Toddle Towne Learning Center, WBGZ, and Ziemer USA.

For sponsorship and prize donations, please contact Trish at 618-467-2282, [tholmes@growthassociation.com](mailto:tholmes@growthassociation.com) or visit the website [www.growthassociation.com](http://www.growthassociation.com).



## RiverBend Golf Classic is June 17

The RBGA's annual golf tournament is Friday, June 17, 2016 at Woodlands Golf Course in Alton. This tournament is a day of golfing and networking with members of the RBGA and members of the community. Take advantage of the RiverBend Golf Classic to promote your business products and services!



The RBGA has several opportunities to participate in the tournament:

Purchase a sponsorship, such as a Hole Sign Sponsorship or a Clubhouse Sponsorship, and more. Represent your business today.

Purchase a team for the tournament.

Donate items for our "thank you" bags. Items of interest are sleeves of golf balls, golf tees, hand sanitizer, lip balm,

restaurant gift certificates, etc. Your donation will be spread among 150 golfers that day!

Donate a set of Cardinals tickets to be used as a contest prize.

Thank you to the RBGA members who have already committed to supporting the RiverBend Golf Classic:

1<sup>st</sup> MidAmerica Credit Union: Exclusive Sponsorship

Alton Memorial Hospital: Eagle Sponsorship

Andy's Auto Body & Car Care, First Clover Leaf Bank, Illinois American Water, Phillips 66 Wood River Refinery, and Riverbend Pediatric Dentistry: Clubhouse Sponsorship

Alton Center Business Park, Argosy, Carpenters Local #664, Donnewald Distributing, Robert "Chick" Fritz, and TheBANK of Edwardsville: Beverage Sponsorship

Airport Plaza Bowl/Bowl Haven Lanes and Quality Buick GMC Cadillac: Own Your Own Hole Sponsorship

Roberts Motors: Hole in One Sponsorship  
Alton Marina and State Representative Ban Beiser: Putting Green Sponsorship

Alton Securities & Asset Advisors, Argosy Casino, Bluff City Grill, Carrollton Bank, CNB Bank & Trust in Alton and Shipman, Lewis & Clark Community College, Midwest Members Credit Union, Robert "Chick" Fritz, Sheppard Morgan & Schwaab and State Farm: Team Sponsorship

Imaging Center of Alton, Kuddes Advertising Specialties/Bridge Coin, Macias Insurance, Midwest Members Federal Credit Union, Nautilus Fitness Center, OSF Saint Anthony's Health Center, Scott Credit Union, Sheppard Morgan & Schwaab, and Simmons Hanly Conroy: Hole Sign Sponsorship



For more information on the RiverBend Golf Classic, visit [www.growthassociation.com](http://www.growthassociation.com).

To secure your participation, contact Trish at 618-467-2282 or [tholmes@growthassociation.com](mailto:tholmes@growthassociation.com).



## 2015-2016 Year at a Glance for Young Adults Committee

On May 4, 2016 a ceremony was held at Riverbender.com to congratulate and celebrate another year of success for the Young Adults Committee.

The Young Adults Committee of the RiverBend Growth Association is comprised of volunteers from the Growth Association's membership and two representatives from RBGA member high schools. 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. Each year these students volunteer time with RBGA nonprofit organizations and organize and implement a fundraiser. ***The proceeds from this fundraiser allow this committee to award a scholarship to one of the 10 students on this committee and to donate to a RBGA nonprofit organization.***

The representatives from the local high schools this year were Jake Bohn and Annie Maynard from **Alton High School**, Jack Walker and Allie Troeckler from **Civic Memorial High School**, Cameron Foust and Haley Shewmake from **East Alton-Wood River High School**, Tommy Morrissey and Alex Cousley from **Marquette Catholic High School**, and Kara Meyer and Taylor Antoine from **Roxana High School**.

The RBGA members who volunteer with these students are Lindsey Kahl of Midwest Members Federal Credit Union, Amber Scott of 1<sup>st</sup> MidAmerica Credit Union, Cindy Smalley of

Cope Plastics, Alexandra Cope of Centerstone, and Jeff Lauritzen of Country Financial. A huge thank you to all the mentors and their employers are in order for allowing time to sit on this committee.

The five RBGA nonprofit organizations we partnered with are Beverly Farm, Kreative Kids Learning Center, Madison County Child Advocacy Center, Community Hope Center and Riverbend Head Start & Family Services.

This year the students raised \$6,000 at their Trivia Night held at Civic Memorial High School on March 12, 2016. These proceeds were split in half and senior Jake Bohn of Alton High School and Beverly Farm were awarded \$3,000 apiece. The winning student is chosen by a point system and the winning non-profit is chosen by the students collectively based on the experience.

The 2015-2016 junior representatives are looking forward to next year as the senior representatives and are ready to fill some big shoes. The new representatives will bring a lot to the table and are ready to become more involved in the community. The following will represent their schools respectively: Anya Jones of Alton High School, Adam Flack of Civic Memorial, Nicholas Hayes of East Alton Wood River, Lauren Walsh of Marquette Catholic High School, and Krysta Meyer of Roxana High School.

The mentors are always looking forward to another year and continuing to be great resources for the students.



Jake Bohn presents Beverly Farm Resource Development Coordinator, Taylor Gibbs, as the 2015-2016 non-profit winner



Jake Bohn of Alton High School being presented as the 2015-2016 committee member winner



2015-2016 Young Adults Committee members

If you are a non-profit and would like more information on how to be involved, please contact Trish Holmes, Director of Member Services, at 618-467-2282.

## Raging Rivers WaterPark named May 2016 Small Business of the Month

The RBGA and Ambassadors joined owners and staff of Raging Rivers WaterPark in Grafton, Illinois, on May 2, 2016 to celebrate and present the Small Business of the Month Award.

Raging Rivers opened July 4, 1990 and was the first family waterpark in the St. Louis/ Riverbend area. Their mission is to provide safe, clean, family fun. "Let's make someone's day" is the opening announcement each and every day.

Raging Rivers donates hundreds of dollars in tickets every year. They have also participated in Make-A-Wish and the Tour de Cure.

Raging Rivers offers a great deal of employment opportunities in the summer for the youth. The park also offers an outstanding entertainment value provided

to thousands of guests every summer.

In the past five years, Raging Rivers has constructed cabanas to provide more privacy for guests. They have also added a pavilion for large groups or receptions.

For more information, visit their website at <http://ragingrivers.com/> or stop by 100 Palisades Parkway in Grafton, IL. They will be open Memorial Day weekend. Call them at 618-786-2345 to find out about their season passes, large group rates and package deals.

Congratulations again to Raging Rivers on being chosen as May's Small Business of the Month and thank you for your membership!



Pictured with Scott Adams and Donna Smith are staff member Connie Clark, RBGA Director of Member Services Trish Holmes, and RBGA Ambassadors Pat Schwarte of Riverbender.com, Therese Kuddes of Kuddes Advertising Specialties and Tom Hoechst of CNB Bank & Trust.

## Grafton Oyster Bar celebrates opening with ribbon cutting

On Wednesday, April 27, 2016, the RiverBend Growth Association joined community leaders, RBGA Ambassadors, and staff to celebrate a new business to Grafton, the Grafton Oyster Bar. Located upstairs from the Grafton Marina, you will find a restaurant that serves award-winning dishes, a variety of fresh oyster selections, blue crab cakes, soups & salads, and oyster bar specialties such as jambalaya, snow crabs, fish tacos, and crawfish dishes.

Not that the menu isn't catching enough, the Grafton Oyster Bar also has specials throughout the week along with live entertainment.

Partner Brad Hagen grew up in Jerseyville and remembers

the beautiful scenery and great atmosphere Grafton brought when he would visit as a young man. He wanted to bring his fresh idea and something new and unique to the town. And so he did. It has been a great success.

Visit the Grafton Oyster Bar right on the river at 215 W. Water St. Grafton. They are open six days a week, Tuesday-Sunday, 11a-1a, open later on Saturdays until 2a.

Also, like them on Facebook [https://www.facebook.com/Grafton-Oyster-Bar-601860106621356/fo/?section=hours&tab=page\\_info](https://www.facebook.com/Grafton-Oyster-Bar-601860106621356/fo/?section=hours&tab=page_info) to keep up to date with current specials and entertainment.



Ambassadors Stephanie Tate of Alton Regional Convention & Visitors Bureau, Pat Schwarte of Riverbender.com, Tom Hoechst of CNB Bank & Trust N.A., Grafton Mayor Tom Thompson, RBGA President Monica Bristow and community members join Brad Hagen to help celebrate the grand opening of Grafton Oyster Bar.



## Board of Directors

Karen Wilson, Chairman  
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Karen Cooper, Past Chairman  
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Melissa Erker  
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Rob Schwartz  
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The Telegraph

Cindy Smalley  
Cope Plastics

Sam Stemm  
WBGZ/AltonDailyNews.com

Dave Stevenson  
Quality Buick GMC Cadillac

Steve Thompson  
Carrollton Bank

Martha Warford  
Beverly Farm

Dwight Werts  
Werts Welding & Tank Service

Charlie Yancey  
IBEW Local 649

## Welcome our newest members to the RiverBend Growth Association

### Abbey Graphic Design & Support Services, Inc.

Cherie Schroeder CEO  
3312 Godfrey Rd  
Godfrey IL 62035-2558  
(618) 466-3300  
abbeyinc.com



Abbey Graphic Design & Support Services, Inc. is a female-owned, international award-winning company specializing in all forms of marketing and graphic design services including printing, branding, web design and trademark registration for your company. Since 1997, Abbey Inc. has been providing quality services to companies and individuals across the country. Whether it's a simple copy job or a custom catalog design, our staff is here to accommodate your every project with detail-oriented, customer-friendly support.

Some of their more popular services include:

- Printing
- Graphic Design of Marketing Tools (Business Cards, Brochures, Mailers, etc.)
- Web Design
- Logo Design
- Mailers (Full Service) & EDDM Specialists
- Indoor/Outdoor Banners
- Wide Format Printing (Posters, Banners, etc.)
- Custom Invitations, Personalized Cards and Calendars
- Laminating
- Silkscreen and Embroidery
- Copy Service
- On Site Gallery Wraps (Printing, custom frame sizes, UV Coating)

No matter what your professional or personal request may be, we can provide you with all your graphic, printing, and

copying needs. [Contact us](#) now to put our award winning team to work for you!

Cherie Schroeder started her Graphic Design career at MasterCard St. Louis, in internal marketing, which means she was responsible for building employee excitement in the products they were selling over the phone. She took that experience and decided to apply it to her own business in February of 1997, incorporating Abbey Graphic Design & Support Service in May of the same year. Through the 19 years, Cherie's love for design and business shows in her attention to detail and her constant attention to quality. It is evidenced in the two international awards that Abbey Inc. has won and in the pride her clients take in their new logo or marketing tools.

### Mother Hen Photography

Allison Henson Owner  
429 Washington Ave., Suite B  
East Alton IL 62024-1319  
(618) 339-2188  
mother-hen-photography.com



Mother Hen Photography is a portraiture and lifestyle photography studio located in East Alton, Illinois and is owned and operated by Allison Henson. We offer on location and studio session.

Allison is a proud mom of eight children; having one child diagnosed with autism helps her understand that accommodating children with special needs is an important need along with helping busy parents capture and preserve

those very important moments that pass by really fast. Mother Hen Photography loves families and children as we mainly focus on them, but we offer a wide variety of session types. There is no comparison to us out there and we are pretty proud of that!

We offer child safe ID's free of charge for group events and trade shows.

You can find out more information here: click [www.mother-hen-photography.com](http://www.mother-hen-photography.com), call or text 618-339-2188, 618-292-2687, 618-339-2697 or email us [mother-hen-photography@outlook.com](mailto:mother-hen-photography@outlook.com).

### Riverbend Kitchen & Millwork, LLC

Kate Springman, Senior Design Sales Associate  
215 Herbert Street  
Alton IL 62002-1924  
(618) 462-8955  
riverbendkm.com



Millwork specializes in the design and implementation of kitchens, baths, bars, and architectural millwork for all areas of your home; integrating high quality workmanship with state-of-the-art products for a perfect blend of form and function. We can work with you to provide a value-driven design that encourages your own image and lifestyle. Our mission is to give every client the finest in design, installation and service; to listen and respond; to focus on every detail and to make the process a pleasure.

# AMBASSADOR SPOTLIGHT

## Tom Hoechst

CNB Bank & Trust

I am a lifelong resident of the greater Alton RBGA area. After graduating from high school I joined the U.S. Navy and served as a hospital corpsman with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Division from 1963 to 1966.



I married Mary Farley Hoechst in 1968, and we made Alton our home. We have three children and two grandchildren.

I worked in the retail side of the grocery business for forty years, retiring in 2006. From 1997 until 2013 I served as an elected official as an Alderman, County Board Representative and Mayor of Alton.

I feel extremely fortunate to have met and worked with so many people who have invested in the RBGA area and utilized the services and resources it has to offer. I have always loved working with the public and being a part of progress for the RBGA area.

I am presently working for CNB Bank & Trust as the Business Development Officer and appreciate their participation in the RBGA and allowing me to serve as an Ambassador. It is very rewarding to see not only new business startups but businesses participating in expansion. We must view the RBGA area as a team effort. Every business large or small lends an important component to our success and continued growth as a united community.

## Gary Hoggatt

1st MidAmerica Credit Union

**Gary Hoggatt, Jr.** joined the RBGA ambassador committee in January 2007. Hoggatt served as Chair of the Ambassador committee from 2009 to 2011. He was honored as Ambassador of the year in 2007. He is also actively involved with the RBGA Promotions Committee.



Hoggatt has been in the financial industry since 1987, beginning his career as a part-time teller. He has managed various banking centers for 16 of those years. He also spent 3 years as a small business lender and as a relationship manager. The past 10 years have been focused on the Mortgage Lending Industry. Currently he is the Vice-President of Mortgage Services at 1<sup>st</sup> MidAmerica Credit Union. He is responsible for the oversight of residential mortgage origination and servicing. "We are in the business of exceeding member expectations," said Hoggatt. "I make sure our department gives the best service possible starting at the application process and closing of a new loan through the entire servicing of that loan. We take great pride in making a stress free process for all applicants." Hoggatt continues, "We put a priority on closing loans in a timely manner."

Hoggatt graduated from Mississippi Valley Christian School in Alton in 1983 and attended Pillsbury Baptist Bible College in Owatonna, Minnesota. 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, Hoggatt completed the Community Bankers School and graduated with honors.

Outside of the banking world, Hoggatt serves on the Board of Directors at the Ed/Glen Chamber of Commerce. He also serves on the School Board for Mississippi Valley Christian School. In addition, Hoggatt is an active member at Faith Baptist Church in Godfrey, IL; where he serves on the Deacon Board, sings in the choir, and teaches a Homebuilders class for young married couples.

Hoggatt grew up in the Bethalto area and is currently living in Alton with his wife of 23 years, Donna, and their two children, Ellianna

## Lindsey Kahl

Midwest Members Credit Union

and Micah. In his spare time Hoggatt likes to do things with his family, read, exercise, and enjoy outdoor activities when possible.



Lindsey Kahl is the Marketing Director at Midwest Members Credit Union, formerly Shell Community Federal Credit Union. Midwest Members Credit Union has served the Riverbend area for 81 years. Lindsey was raised in the Riverbend area and thoroughly enjoys her time serving on the Ambassadors committee and Young Adult committee for the Growth Association. She is currently the Young Adult mentor for students representing EAWR High School.

Lindsey graduated from SIUE with a Bachelor's degree in Marketing. While at SIUE she was President of the School of Business ELITE club and Vice President of Community Service for Delta Sigma Pi business fraternity. She also had the opportunity to study abroad in Germany and tour German businesses and learn more about international business practices. She has worked in banking for 11 years. Lindsey comes from an entrepreneurial family and values the benefit of networking and volunteering. Lindsey and her husband Kaleb reside in Bunker Hill and enjoy raising their livestock and traveling with their two children, Heidi and Cooper. Lindsey, being an avid St. Louis Blues fan and wants nothing more than a Stanley Cup Championship this year.

Lindsey has been an Ambassador for 5 months and enjoys volunteering her time with the Growth Association at networking events and values the opportunity to meet new people and learn more about this wonderful community.

## Mayor Report - Mike McCormick, Village of Godfrey

The Village of Godfrey flourished in 2015. Despite continued budget uncertainty and delayed payments from the State of Illinois which hindered so many other communities, the elected officials were able to navigate the turbulent times.



Great Godfrey Corn Maze. This year, Godfrey Parks and Recreation were honored to partner with the Fabulous Fox Theater for the opportunity to deliver a "Wicked" themed maze in conjunction with the theater's hosting of the theatrical production. The Parks and Recreation department grew several of its programs and added additional events, including the first ever Godfrey Triathlon.

On the business front, the Village saw some very significant development. Ruler Foods opened in over 22,000 sq. ft. of Monticello Plaza and expanded grocery choices for the region. A & B Machine and Lake Drive Logistics began

operations and revitalized a 70,000 sq. ft. former paper distribution location. Walmart grew its investment in Godfrey by adding a fueling station and convenience store. Also growing its investment in the community was Little Caesars Pizza, who remodeled the former Sonic restaurant. Hatch & Kirk, an industrial and heavy-duty engine parts supplier, filled the space left by the loss of Godfrey Hardwoods along Humbert Road.

Godfrey just did not add businesses, it also added homes. 19 permits were issued for home construction and the new apartment facility, Trailblazer Commons, began housing students.

Fully committed to expand on the success and momentum

of 2015, the Village of Godfrey crafted a Facade Improvement Program to help business owners further invest for continued success and growth. Commercial property owners may also be able to take advantage of the program to help stay attractive and competitive or even reinvigorate their sites.

To better protect our residents and businesses, in 2015 the Village of Godfrey, with the help of Chris Sichra, developed its first detailed comprehensive emergency operations and disaster plan. This plan restructured operations to meet the emergency management and preparedness needs of the growing community.

## Welcome to Crown of Thorns Customs

The RiverBend Growth Association joined owners and Alton Mayor Brant Walker Friday May 13, 2016 to celebrate a grand opening and new membership of Crown of Thorns Customs located at 2115 College Avenue in Alton.

Owners Jason and Brandy West recently open Crown of Thorns and are bringing a unique service to the area. Crown of Thorns Customs specializes in hydro graphics, powder coating, vinyl decals, and glass etching. With good pricing, Jason is determined to

give you quality results. They can turn just about anything into a decal or shirt design.

Visit Crown of Thorns Customs Monday-Friday or visit their website <http://www.crownofthornscustoms.com/> to place an order. Call Jason or Brandy at 314-690-1808 for any special request. Please like them on Facebook to keep up with the latest projects and offers. Congratulations Jason and Brandy and welcome to the RiverBend Growth Association.



Ambassadors David Knowles of Atrium Hotel and Pat Schwarte of Riverbender.com with owners Jason and Brandy West and family. Also pictured are Mayor Brant Walker and Matt Asselmeier.



## Village of Godfrey debuts new playground

On May 13, 2016, the RBGA joined community members and leaders, and RBGA Ambassadors at Homer Adams Park behind Godfrey Village Hall, 6810 Homer Adams Parkway, Godfrey, to showcase and celebrate the grand opening of the new and improved park area.



Community members and leaders of the Godfrey area gather to celebrate the Grand Opening of the new playground located behind Godfrey Village Hall.

Director of Parks & Recreation, Kimberly Caughran, was pleased and excited to update and launch the new playground to the community.

The park was made possible by a Madison County grant and a lot of hard work has been put into the area. Come and enjoy the slides, monkey bars and new surface at Homer Adams Park any day from sunrise to sunset.

## Midwest Members Credit Union celebrates new name

On Monday May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016 the RiverBend Growth Association, its Ambassadors, and community leaders joined President/CEO Greg Lyons at the Wood River branch to conduct a ribbon cutting announcing a name change. Formerly known as Shell Community Federal Credit Union, it is now Midwest Members Federal Credit Union.



Greg Lyons cuts the ribbon to celebrate its name change with community members and leaders on May 16, 2016.

Lyons and the staff members are excited about the name change and ensure the public they will still receive the same great service from the same great people.

"We felt the name change was necessary to better represent the membership we serve. We are very proud of our legacy with the refinery and grateful to the community and membership for the years of trust and loyalty," says Greg Lyons, President/CEO.

Members of Midwest Members Federal Credit Union can still use their same accounts, checks, credit cards and debit cards.

Please visit [www.midmembers.org](http://www.midmembers.org) for more information on the name change or contact them at 618-254-0605.

## New business Mystical Journeys is a "New Age" shop

On May 19, 2016, Trish Holmes, RBGA Director of Member Services joined Alton Mayor Walker, RBGA President Monica Bristow and RBGA Ambassadors to welcome and celebrate a new store in Alton with owners Marianne Frost and Betty Hackney.



Owners Betty and Marianne cut the ribbon to celebrate being a new business and new member to the RBGA. To help celebrate are community leaders and Ambassadors of RBGA.

Mystical Journeys is located at 3090 Homer Adams Parkway in Alton. Both owners are retired but wanted to follow a passion and a dream so they decided to go in together as business partners to bring to the community a "New Age" shop.

Mystical Journeys has products such as incense, teas, books, CD's, essential oils, candles and stones. They carry a little bit of everything. They plan on adding items, products and services to the shop as it grows.

They offer private psychic readings by appointments. Call them today at 433-9913 or email Betty at [betty@mysticaljourneys.net](mailto:betty@mysticaljourneys.net) to set your appointment.

Check out their website at <http://www.mysticaljourneys.net/home> to keep up with workshops and events coming up.

Congratulations, Mystical Journeys!

## Welcome Riverbend Kitchen & Millwork to the RBGA

The RBGA joined Office Manager, Deehan Coffman, and many members of the community to welcome Riverbend Kitchen & Millwork as a new member to the Riverbend Growth Association.

Riverbend Kitchen & Millwork offers a variety of products and services for remodels of your bathroom, kitchen and more.

Their mission is to give every client the finest in design, installation and service; to listen and to respond; to focus on every detail and to make the process a pleasure.

Please visit Riverbend Kitchen and Millwork and meet the team and check out the showrooms at 215 Herbert St. in Alton, IL or give them a call at 618-462-8955. They are open Monday-Friday 8:00a-5:00p or can be reached with an appointment. Get more information by visiting their website at <http://riverbend-kitchen-and-millwork.com/>.

Congratulations Riverbend Kitchen & Millwork and welcome to the RBGA.



## Total Networking Luncheon

The RBGA hosted one of its monthly networking events on Wednesday May 18, 2016. This month Riverbend Growth Association members met at Julia's Banquet Center with an attendance of more than 40 people for its Total Networking Luncheon event.

These events are led by Director of Member Services, Trish Holmes, and both promoted and planned with the help of the Promotions Committee. This year the Promotions Committee set a theme for the year to focus on overall health in the workplace. To date, meetings have consisted of speakers and activities that can also be incorporated into a great networking tool. The activities have spotlighted businesses in attendance.

This networking event is growing every month and RSVP's are not required but strongly encouraged to help promote your business or organization with attendance.

The Small Business of the Month was presented by the Small Business of the Month Committee Chair, Amy Schaake of the Edwardsville Intelligencer. Schaake had the privilege to present Donna Smith of Raging Rivers WaterPark as the May 2016 Small Business of the Month winner.

The luncheon had

two speakers: Katie McBee, CEO Coordinator, introduced the new CEO program to the audience and answered questions to help bring awareness to the community. This program currently consists of Alton High School and Marquette Catholic High School seniors. There was a screening and intensive application process to be selected for this program. There are numerous ways to participate in this new program with the goal to help inspire the youth to develop businesses right here in the community. Please contact McBee at 618-467-2283 for more information.

Also, Dr. Dee Dee Jones delivered a very informational presentation about 'Whole Health for You and Your Body.' Dr. Jones explained different ways in which employers could help the morale and performance in the workplace while also helping individuals with their own personal health. Many examples were given and the information was well received.

**Please join us at the next event which will be the Breakfast Connections at the Atrium Hotel on June 15, 2016 at 8am. We hope to see you there.**



*Donna Smith of Raging Rivers receives the May 2016 Small Business of the Month award.*



*Katie McBee, CEO Coordinator, presents the CEO program to the audience.*



*Dr. Dee Dee Jones delivers valuable information to many decision makers in attendance with tips and statistics about overall health in the workplace.*