

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



SEPTEMBER 2017 • Volume 15 | Issue 9

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RiverBend Growth Association  
5800 Godfrey Road - BGM  
6722 Godfrey Road  
Godfrey IL 62035  
(618) 467-2280

## September Business After Hours was held at Riverbend Kitchen & Millwork

Riverbend Kitchen & Millwork specializes in design and construction of kitchens, baths, and bars. Their mission is to give every client the finest design, installation, service; to listen and to respond; to focus on every detail and to make the process a pleasure.

Visit their website at <http://www.riverbendkm.com/index.html> to see more about their services and products or stop by to see their beautiful showroom at 215 Herbert St. in Alton, IL.



Contact RK&M today for specialty kitchen, bath, and bar designs.



RK&M voted 2017 Reader's Choice by AdVantage NEWS



Door prize winners: Adam Stutz of WBGZ (also 50/50 winner), Tracey Carpunky, George McGilvrey, and Jerry Gibson (all pictured with Deehan Coffman of Riverbend Kitchen & Millwork)

# RiverBend Growth Association Honors September's Small Business of the Month - Robert "Bob" Sanders Waste Systems, Inc.

Robert "Bob" Sanders Waste Systems has been in business in the Alton area since 1936 and is the oldest, private family owned trash disposal service in the region.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month is in October and you can call the office at 618-465-8461 to support the cure for breast cancer. Pink dumpsters and totes are now available in different sizes. 20% of the proceeds go to Working Towards a Cure <http://www.workingtowardsacure.com/>.

Sanders offers both commercial and residential services to a wide range

in regions of Illinois and Missouri.

The RBGA congratulates Robert "Bob" Sanders Waste Systems, Inc. and appreciates all they do in the community.

The RiverBend Growth Association is the chamber of commerce and the economic development organization for the communities of the Riverbend. Each month one association business is selected as Small Business of the Month and receives approximately \$4,200 worth of marketing. The association can be reached at 618-467-2280.



Watch this month's video presentation at <http://www.growthassociation.com/page/event-videos/>

## You Are Invited

### State of the RiverBend Luncheon

Thursday, October 26, 2017

Lewis and Clark Community College

5800 Godfrey Road (Commons) • Godfrey IL 62035

To honor the Awardees for contributing significantly to our community's economic enhancement and/or their community involvement

Best Western Premier • Bluff City Grill • Dream Home Charities  
East Alton History Museum • Phillips 66 Wood River Refinery  
Simmons Employee Foundation

Social/Registration 11:00 • Lunch served at 11:30 • Program begins at 12:15



Sponsorship - \$600 (table of eight) • Individuals - \$45

Registration via the event logo on our homepage at [www.GrowthAssociation.com](http://www.GrowthAssociation.com).

## Board of Directors

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Denise Wolff  
Berkshire Hathaway Home  
Services Elite Properties  
Jess Woodman  
Woodman Collision Center  
Charlie Yancey  
IBEW Local 649

## Welcome our newest members to the RiverBend Growth Association

### The Perfect 10 by 4204 Main St. Brewery

Scott Berroth General Manager  
180 E Center Dr  
Alton IL 62002-5930  
(618) 465-7260  
theperfect-10.com

The Perfect 10 is the new concept by 4204 Main Street Brewing Co. The concept derived from our numbers  $4+2+0+4=10!$  We then decided to share the concept by offering a menu where everything is \$10 or less. The Perfect 10 offers a daily special every day of the week for \$10. Some great examples are



Monday 8oz. Sirloin, one side and a Beer \$10! Saturday is half rack of baby back ribs, a side, and beer \$10. Sunday we have 1/2 fried chicken a side and beer \$10! Every day of the week offers a great combination special for \$10. All other items if not offered as the daily special are also \$10 or less. The menu has ten choices of Burgers, Chicken Sandwiches, Flatbreads, Salads and other items including sirloin steak. We have a full Bar with 12 taps of 4204 Ice Cold Beers available. The Perfect 10 is open daily Sun-Thurs. 11am-9pm, Friday & Saturday 11am-10pm. We also can host larger parties in our separate room, holiday events and many other company functions.

### Poputopia, LLC

Rebecca Pattan Owner  
231 E. Delmar Rd  
Alton IL 62002-5935  
(618) 433-8588  
outatheworldpop@gmail.com  
poputopiapopcorn.com

Poputopia are producers of fine gourmet popcorn and popcorn products. We offer as many as 150 flavors and combinations including our Porter Caramel made with local Porter beer from

Old Bakery Beer Co. We also have a large variety of popcorn recipes that include chocolate, nuts, and candy. Savory, spicy and salty and cheeses complete the menu.



As well as our popcorn we also carry 200+ different candies. They include bulk every day and holiday specialties to fine chocolates, fudge, gourmet pretzels, candied pecans, almonds and cashews, and caramel apples seasonally. The caramel apples and candied nuts are prepared fresh from our kitchen. We take pride in using the finest ingredients including many organic products in our recipes and source locally for many ingredients.

From our retail store we offer popcorn and candy by the bag in varying sizes from 3 cups to 96 cups as well as tins and custom gift baskets for any occasion. Our tins range from 1/2 gallon to 6.5 gallons.

Special orders for any event such as weddings, graduations and holidays, as well as corporate orders are welcome. Poputopia offers wholesale popcorn to other small local merchants in Illinois and Missouri. Our fundraising program is a perfect fit for non-

profit groups and schools. Find us on Facebook at Poputopia Gourmet Popcorn & Sweets, Twitter and Instagram.

### Well Creek Pharmacy Bethalto

Bruce Brueggemann  
Pharmacist/Manager/Part Owner  
333 W  
Bethalto  
Dr., Suite B  
Bethalto IL 62010-1909  
(618) 377-5356  
wellcreekpharmacy.com



Well Creek Pharmacy - Bethalto is an independent locally owned pharmacy. Formerly the Medicine Shoppe, we changed to a private label of good neighbor pharmacy and carry a much larger over the counter section, and can special order items we do not normally carry. Our staff has been in the area for many years. We accept most insurance plans and many times at the same copay. We offer convenient location and hours, drive thru and free delivery with our delivery area. We also do immunizations with no appointment necessary. It's easy to transfer prescriptions, give us a call.

## RBGA Upcoming Events



Wednesday, October 18, 2017  
Breakfast Connections  
Best Western Premier

Thursday, October 19, 2017  
Business After Hours  
Non-Profit BAH  
location TBD



Visit our website calendar for event details.  
[www.GrowthAssociation.com](http://www.GrowthAssociation.com)

# AMBASSADOR Q & A



**Martha Schultz**

*First Mid-Illinois Bank & Trust*

**About how long have you been an ambassador?**

*5 years*

**What's your favorite Riverbend restaurant?**

*Roma's Pizza*

**Where do you like to visit for vacation?**

*Sanibel Island Florida, we try and go every other year for it is so relaxing and beautiful.*

**What do you like most about your job?**

*Assisting customers, it is very rewarding helping someone achieve their financial dreams.*

**What are your hobbies?**

*Reading*

**If you were stranded on a desert island, what three things would you bring?**

*A great book, a knife & rope, Plus if I can squeeze it in my favorite blanket*

**What is your favorite sport to watch?**

*Kansas City Football!!!!!!*

**What one sentence would you like to hear from your boss?**

*Thanks for doing a great job!*



**Pat Schwarte**

*Riverbender.com & EdGlenToday.com*

**About how long have you been an ambassador?**

*About 4 years*

**Where do you like to visit for vacation?**

*I love the mountains so Estes Park/ Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado is my choice for vacationing.*

**Name one of your most important leadership skills.**

*I wouldn't ask someone to do something I wouldn't do.*

**What do you like most about your job?**

*What I like most about my job is the people I work with, they're some of the brightest, funniest most compassionate people I've had the pleasure to know.*

**What are your hobbies?**

*Currently my two favorite hobbies are playing golf and throwing a Frisbee.*

**What is your favorite sport to watch?**

*My favorite sport to watch is football and my favorite team is anyone playing the Rams.*

**What is one of the things on your bucket list?**

*Learn to fly a plane so I can defy gravity.*

**Where do you like to Shop Local?**

*Any business that advertises in RiverBender.com so that money spent with us is money spent back in the community.*



**Erin Spain**

*Advantage News*

**About how long have you been an ambassador?**

*This is my second year as an ambassador.*

**What's your favorite Riverbend restaurant?**

*There are too many good ones to pick just one!*

**Where do you like to visit for vacation?**

*The beach or the lake with my family and friends.*

**What do you like most about your job?**

*I really enjoy working with the local businesses in our community.*

**What are your hobbies?**

*Watching my kids sports and reading a good book.*

**What is your favorite sport to watch?**

*I love watching my kids play any sports, but my favorite is basketball.*

**What one sentence would you like to hear from your boss?**

*Good job! Take the rest of the day off!*

**Where do you like to Shop Local?**

*St. Peters Hardware!*

## Answer Midwest celebrates renovations and new leadership

On August 28, 2017, the RiverBend Growth Association (RBGA) hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony for their long-time member Answer Midwest, to join in many different celebrations taking place.

President, Gary Tedrick, celebrated retirement handing the torch to his daughter Jennifer Schulz who held the position as the Vice President of the company. The company is also celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary under their leadership.

Answer Midwest also recently underwent a major renovation and wanted to showcase their new look located inside of the Honke Building at 307 Henry Street in Alton.

The vision at Answer Midwest is to be a specialized answering service. This includes serving as an exclusive telephone reception, supplementing existing telephone operations, or supporting after hours business. Answer Midwest can serve clientele 24 hours-a-day, seven days-a-week.

US Congressmen Michael Bost and Rodney Davis also attended the ribbon cutting to show their support to Answer Midwest with kind words about the businesses in the Riverbend community.

Call Answer Midwest at 618-463-9093 to hear more about their services and how they can help your business.

The RBGA congratulates Answer Midwest for all of their accomplishments and thanks them for all they do in the community.

Thank you Riverbender.com for capturing the video presentation found at <https://www.riverbender.com/video/details/rbga-cuts-ribbon-for-midwest-answers-inc-video-3111.cfm>.



Many community members and community leaders gather to celebrate many celebrations with Answer Midwest.



Answer Midwest is located inside the Honke Building at 307 Henry Street in Alton.

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## Hit-n-Run celebrates new ownership

On September 12, 2017 the RiverBend Growth Association (RBGA) hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony for its member Hit-n-Run at their Bethalto location to celebrate their change in ownership.

The day consisted of beautiful weather, food, beverages, and a food truck courtesy of Hit-n-Run.

New owners Dwight and Teresa Fowler are no strangers to the store and its day to day operations. Teresa start off at the Hit-n-Run stores as a teenager as a clerk and worked her way up the ladder and the couple decided to purchase the store this past July.

There are six area locations: Upper Alton, North Alton, Wood River, East Alton, Granite City, and Bethalto.

Visit their website today at <http://www.hitnrunstores.com/> to find out more about the store and weekly specials.

The RBGA congratulates the Fowlers and thanks them for their membership and business in the Riverbend area. Thank you Riverbender.com for capturing the video presentation found at <https://www.riverbender.com/video/details/rbga-cuts-ribbon-for-midwest-answers-inc-video-3111.cfm>



Hit-n-Run employees, family, and community leaders gather to celebrate new ownership.



Excited employees that help run Hit-n-Run's day to day operations

# Attendees Go Beyond the Basics of Networking

The RiverBend Growth Association (RBGA) hosted Total Networking Luncheon on September 13<sup>th</sup> with a record crowd in attendance. Individuals gathered, networked, and built relationships in a professional but relaxed environment while enjoying a lunch provided by Cathy Gross and her staff at Bluff City Grill on Broadway in Alton.

The Small Business of the Month was presented by RBGA's Director of Member Services, Trish Holmes, and promoted and planned with the help of the Promotions Committee. Activities will continue to spotlight businesses in attendance while attendees will have a creative and fun way to both learn about local business and promote their own.

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

The presentation was fun, informative, and enlightening. Her presentation covered networking from start to finish by recognizing what "homework" to do before an event, to how to present yourself at an event, to the must needed follow-up.

The RBGA and Promotions Committee hopes everyone enjoyed the event. These events are led by Director of Member Services, Trish Holmes, and promoted and planned with the help of the Promotions Committee. Activities will continue to spotlight businesses in attendance while attendees will have a creative and fun way to both learn about local business and promote their own.

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

**Please join us at the next event which will be our Breakfast Connections at Best Western Premier on October 18th for a fun and engaging networking activity.**



*Sheila Goins is joined by coworkers of Midwest Members Credit Union as she presented on taking networking beyond the basics!*



*A record crowd turns out for lunch and networking at Bluff City Grill*

# SuitUp for a LeaderSHIFT Women's Seminar was successful

Wednesday September 20th marked a day where 200+ women joined, mingled, and networked throughout the day at the annual RBGA's Women's Seminar at Best Western Premier.

The RBGA staff and committee members would like to thank everyone for attending and sponsoring the event.

A special thank you to our four amazing speakers that helped attendees reach their destination, were uplifted by inspiration, learned the importance of presentation, and moved forward with innovation.

- Dr. Katie Drake Sherer
- Honorable Sarah Smith
- Rev. Sheila Goins
- Michelle Conger

The MC for the event, Michelle Blackwood of Challenge Unlimited, captured the attention of the audience and kept everyone engaged as she started off the day with an icebreaker and kept everyone busy with a networking activity that consisted of a scavenger hunt that moved everyone throughout the room taking selfies and posting them to the event page. See more at [https://www.facebook.com/events/121451731909303/?active\\_tab=discussion](https://www.facebook.com/events/121451731909303/?active_tab=discussion)

LuLu's Shaved Ice was a surprise treat at the close of the event thanks to our President Sponsors.

The RBGA staff and Women's Seminar Planning Committee hopes to have everyone back next year and thanks you for helping make this event a success.

- Committee Members
- Chris Corby, Missouri Baptist University
- Lori Kuithe, Lewis & Clark Community College
- Angela McDowell, Angela McDowell Counseling Services
- Lee McRaven, OSF Saint Anthony's Health Center
- Mary Blotna, Heneghan and Associates
- Jacinda Dunlap, Best Western Premier
- Mallory Zimmerman, Foxes Grove Supportive Living

The CHAIR of committee, Neena Frisch, TheBANK of Edwardsville



Attendees enjoy the selfie scavenger hunt



(far left) MC Michelle Blackwood & speaker Dr. Katie Drake Sherer

(near left) The Honorable Sarah Smith addressed the crowd



Two of the day's speakers, Rev. Sheila Goins (far left) and Michelle Conger (near left)



(bottom right) More than 200 women gather for a fun day of motivation and networking.

(bottom left) A treat from LuLu's Shaved Ice was sponsored by our President Sponsors.

Thank you to our generous sponsors for supporting Women's Seminar: Suit Up for a LeaderSHIFT. We couldn't have had a successful event without you.



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- COUNTRY Financial® - Jeffrey Lauritzen
- Foxes Grove Senior Living Community
- Grafton Winery & Brewhaus
- Jeffrey's Flowers By Design
- King Air Conditioning & Heating
- Kuddes Advertising Specialties
- Legendary Mustang Sanctuary
- Lewis and Clark Community College
- Olive Oil Marketplace
- Poputopia, LLC
- Real Deals on Home Décor
- State Street Market
- Villa Rose Senior Living Community



# Werts Welding Donation Enhances Truck Driver Training at L&C

Werts Welding and Tank Service, Inc., of Wood River, is enhancing Lewis and Clark Community College's Truck Driver Training program through the recent donation of a tank trailer.

"The trailer extends the capabilities of our current program to provide unique training and experience in a trucking segment that requires specialized skills in hauling liquid materials," said Harry Nelson, L&C Truck Driver Training program coordinator.

The 1989 Heil 9,200-gallon tank trailer was once a Casey's General Store tank truck with four compartments to transport gasoline and diesel, said Dwight Werts, president and CEO of Werts Welding and a member of the L&C Board of Trustees. It is valued at \$18,000.

"Werts Welding and Tank Service is in constant communication with the trucking industry, which is facing a critical shortage of qualified professional drivers," Werts said. "Werts Welding and Tank Services has always been a big supporter of this program. This donation is our way of assuring Lewis and Clark has the equipment needed to help the entire industry in our region."

L&C's Truck Driver Training program prepares individuals with little or no commercial driving experience for a career in tractor-trailer driving.

"The program has a perfect track record of students earning passing scores on their Commercial Driver's License tests and a great reputation among trucking employers," said Dr. Linda Chapman, Vice President of Academic Affairs. "This impressive tank trailer contribution will contribute to the students' learning and their confidence as it gets incorporated into the instructional program."

Students receive classroom instruction about Department of Transportation (DOT) regulations and Commercial Driver's License (CDL) requirements to enable them to obtain their CDL learner's permit. Additional classroom instruction, in conjunction with behind-the-wheel driving experience, provides students with the knowledge and skills necessary to take the Illinois Secretary of State-administered CDL Class A road test.

Graduates who successfully pass this test receive their CDL and are qualified to obtain employment in the transportation industry as an entry-level truck driver.



"The donation of the tank trailer will better prepare our students for careers in this competitive field," said L&C Dean of Career Programs Sue Czerwinski. "We appreciate Werts Welding and their contribution tremendously."

Truck drivers are in high demand. There is a shortage of around 35,000-40,000 drivers currently, according to the American Trucking Association. With the average age of truck drivers between 49-52, that problem may get worse in coming years, according to the National Transportation Institute.

"If anyone has any interest in developing a career as a professional truck driver, Lewis and Clark's program sets a new standard with simulators and a full program of study focused on safety, technology and state-

of-the-art equipment," said L&C President Dale Chapman.

To learn more about L&C's Truck Driver Training program, visit [www.lc.edu/program/truckdrivertraining](http://www.lc.edu/program/truckdrivertraining).

Werts Welding is an internationally known tank trailer parts and service company specializing in petroleum, pneumatic, chemical and vacuum tank trailers, as well as a complete line of tank trailer parts and equipment. The family owned corporation has more than 80 employees and its headquarters is located in Wood River, Illinois and has been in business for 60 years. To learn more, visit [www.wertswelding.com](http://www.wertswelding.com).