

## IN THIS ISSUE

### Small Business of the Month

- Midwest Basement Tech

### Ambassadors Q & A

- Jamie Black
- Michelle Blackwood
- Mary Boulds

### Mayor Report

- Alton

### Welcome our new members

- Affordable Dentistry Today
- Creative Options Graphic Design Inc.
- Da-Com Corporation
- Scott Dixon
- E-Z Bow by Tracy

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

## Another Successful RBGA Business After Hours with Co-Hosts Bluff City Grill and Nautilus Fitness Center

February's Business After Hours was another successful event where more than 100 professionals gathered at the banquet center at Bluff City Grill as Nautilus Fitness Center helped co-host the event.

Bluff City Grill is located Downtown Alton at 424 Broadway just minutes away from other great attractions and beautiful scenery such as the Clark Bridge and Alton Amphitheater. Bluff City Grill has both a relaxing sports bar and dining room to fit all needs for a perfect evening. With a diverse menu, including items such as their famous guac bites, one of many salads, wings with their well known signature sauces and plenty of entrees. Call Cathy Gross today at 618.433.8288 to inquire about renting the renovated banquet center that can seat 400+ for any special occasion. <http://www.bluffcitygrillalton.com/index.html>

Co-host Nautilus Fitness Center is a leader in the Alton area when it comes to a fitness facility. Nautilus is locally owned and was established 35 years ago. Nautilus Fitness Center has expanded over the years and is now a 35,000 square foot facility offering more than just a gym membership.



Ambassadors help at every Business After Hours event to create a smooth and professional networking experience.



Everyone in attendance enjoyed food prepared by co-host Bluff City Grill.



Co-host Nautilus Fitness Center

Call Susie Sweetman today at 618.466.9115 to inquire about membership, set up a tour, see boot camps and classes in action, and to check out the latest equipment, racquetball courts, and pool. There are always personal trainers and a nutritionist on site to help with personal fitness goals. <http://nautilusalton.com/>

Please join us for our next Business After Hours event March 16th at Hops House, located inside the Argosy Casino at 1 Piasa Street in Alton.

# RiverBend Growth Association Honors Small Business of the Month Winner for February: Midwest Basement Tech

Community members gathered February 3rd to honor and celebrate with Midwest Basement Tech while Riverbender.com provided video coverage during the Small Business of the Month Award presentation.

Midwest Basement Tech is a family owned, hi-tech specialty firm which opened in 1978 and provides a local choice for basement and crawlspace repair. Their mission is to be the industry leader in knowledge and experience in healthy foundation waterproofing solutions and structural repairs to residential and commercial owners. They have a licensed waterproofing specialist on staff.

Midwest Basement Tech gives back to the community as often as they can. The business has participated with Dream Home Charities helping fill semi-trucks at Christmas, contributes to the City of Brighton July Fireworks and Frighten Brighton, and has also helped sponsor the Southwestern High School

Cross Country Race and Bethalto Eagles Hockey Club to name a few. Employees of the company are also involved heavily in the community.

Midwest Basement Tech takes pride in their employees and technicians. They provide their customers with exceptional service and old fashioned quality workmanship. Due to their great expertise and hard work, Midwest Basement Tech has been able to maintain an A+ rating with the Better Business Bureau.

Please join us this month in congratulating Midwest Basement Tech for being February's Small Business of the Month.

Midwest Basement Tech is located at 104 Ransom, Brighton Il 62012. Office Hours are 8:00 a.m. 5:30 p.m. and offers a 24 Hour Emergency call in service - 1-800-848-9805 - <http://midwestbasementtech.com/>

The RiverBend Growth Association is the chamber of commerce and the economic



Midwest Basement Tech staff is joined by RBGA Ambassadors and Small Business of the Month committee members Stacey Loveland of Foxes Grove Supportive Living Community, Erin Spain of AdvAntage NEWS, Leslie Schobernd of 1<sup>st</sup> Mid America Credit Union, Amy Schaake of Riverbender.com, Mitch Cannell of Logo It, Michelle Blackwood of Challenge Unlimited, Jamie Slaten of Scott Credit Union, Therese Kuddes of Kuddes Advertising Specialties, Pat Schwarte of Riverbender.com, Kurt Ferguson of The Telegraph, Matt Kotzamanis of The Bank of Edwardsville, and Tom Hoechst of CNB Bank & Trust.

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

development organization for the communities of the Riverbend. Each month one association business is selected as Small Business of the Month. The monthly

winner receive approximately \$4,200 worth of marketing. The association can be reached at 618-467-2280.

## RBGA Business After Hours (continued)



RBGA Director of Member Services, Trish Holmes, with Bluff City Grill owner, Cathy Gross



Pictured are attendance prize winners for the night. Many prizes were given including tee shirts, Bluff City Grill gift certificates and cozies, and Nautilus Fitness membership and personal training starter packages.

## Board of Directors

Augie Wuellner, Chairman  
Alton Securities & Asset Advisors

Karen Wilson, Past Chairman  
State Farm Insurance

Jennifer Jacobsen, Chairman Elect  
Argosy Casino Alton

Mike Fitzgerald, Treasurer  
Scheffel Boyle

Jeff Allsman  
Village of Bethalto

Lori Artis  
Lewis and Clark Community College

Tom Berry  
Jackson Lewis P.C.

Dale Blachford  
Liberty Bank

Greg Caffey  
City of Alton

Karen Cooper  
Illinois American Water

Stephanie Dykstra  
Brightway Imaging

Melissa Erker  
Phillips 66 Wood River Refinery

Mike Farrell  
Helmkamp Construction Co.

Mark Haggard  
CNB Bank & Trust, N.A.

Kevin Hamilton  
Carpenters Local 664

John Keller

Eric McRoy  
Advantage News

Alan Meyer  
1st MidAmerica Credit Union

David Miller  
St. Louis Regional Airport

Stephanie Monroe  
Riverbend Chiropractic Center

Scott Reichmann  
BarberMurphy Group

John Roberts  
Roberts Motors

Dan St. Peters  
St. Peters Hardware & Rental

Diane Schuette  
OSF Saint Anthony's Health Ctr.

Rob Schwartz  
TheBANK of Edwardsville

Jim Shrader  
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

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

### Affordable Dentistry Today

Sharon Scriber Dental Asst.  
3432 College Ave.  
Alton IL 62002-5006  
(618) 465-5815  
affordabledentistryalton.com



Affordable Dentistry Today in Alton is a comprehensive dental practice that focuses on efficient, gentle, and quality dental care. Our dentist, Dr. Neal Patel, strives to make every patient's visit as comfortable as possible. The field of dentistry is ever-evolving and our office diligently stays educated and up to date on the latest procedures and technology.

Dr. Patel's practices include but not limited to extractions, root canals, fillings, crown, bridges, dentures (full and partial), gum disease therapy, whitening, bite and night guards, Invisalign invisible braces, and much more. Most insurances are accepted.

### Creative Options Graphic Design, Inc.

Sherrie Hickman Owner  
100 N Main St., Suite 6  
Edwardsville IL 62025-1981  
(618) 655-1032  
creativeoptions-inc.com



Offering more than 25 years' experience in graphic design services, Creative Options Graphic Design, Inc. assists

companies of all sizes, from large corporations to one-person start-ups, in developing powerful, effective graphics and branding tools.

Our unique approach results in dynamic, award-winning designs that help companies get noticed in the marketplace, drive sales and stand out from the competition. Strong graphics, a simple message, and consistency in branding helps clients maximize their exposure through:

- Logo/Corporate Identity & Branding
- Brochures & Collateral Material
- Annual Reports, Booklets & Magazines
- Environmental Graphics

It's time to focus on the big picture. Step out of the crowd and begin a strategy to help build your business in the most efficient and creative way possible. Whether you have a short-term strategy or a long-term plan, Creative Options is a valuable partner in your marketing efforts.

### Da-Com Corporation

Brett Schroeder Territory Manager  
5317 Knights of Columbus Dr  
St. Louis MO 63119-5060  
(314) 442-2800  
618-920-3284 cell  
bschroeder@da-com.com  
da-com.com

Da-Com has a legacy of



providing technology with outstanding support to companies in St. Louis and Southwestern Illinois. At Da-Com we strive to be your total solutions provider for your office environment. For almost 70 years, Da-Com has evolved with

technology to meet the needs of our clients. However, one thing has always been constant: Da-Com always does the right thing.

### Scott Dixon

P. O. Box 203  
Alton IL 62002-0203  
(618) 779-4990

### E-Z Bow by Tracy

Tracy Falcone Owner  
1029 Danforth St.  
Alton IL 62002  
(618) 917-3049  
E-ZBowByTracy.com

The E-Z Bow by Tracy is something I came up with as a result of trying to stack, ship or transport packages with bows on them. Bows normally get smashed or torn off when stacked. This bow looks 3-D but is actually flat. It is a bow that is printed on an adhesive vinyl and then put directly onto the package. It looks as good when it arrives as it did when you wrapped it! After two and a half years I received my patent and have started producing the bow.

# AMBASSADOR Q & A



**Jamie Black**



**Michelle Blackwood**



**Mary Boulds**

**Where do you work?**

*I work at Options Now as an Event Coordinator.*

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

*Just became an Ambassador*

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

*Bluff City Grill*

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

*Smoky Mountains*

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

*dependability*

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

*I feel we are making a difference. Giving hope to people.*

**What are my hobbies?**

*Reading and watching crime shows*

**If I was stranded on a desert island, the three things I would bring?**

*Gerber Bear Fire Starter, Boiling Kettle, Tony's Cajun Seasoning*

**Favorite Sport to watch?**

*None*

**Where do you work?**

*Challenge Unlimited, Inc.*

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

*3 years*

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

*I love so many of them! I'm currently on a Bluff City Grill kick. Actually, I could go for some guac bites right now!*

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

*The Caribbean. Sun. White sand. Clear water. <3*

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

*Motivating others*

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

*Connecting with so many neat people and learning every single day!*

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

*My husband, my puppy, my cell phone*

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

*Baseball*

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

*"You are important, you make a difference, and here's a pay raise." LOL!*

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

*White Birch*

**Where do you work?**

*I am currently the Alton City Clerk. I have been in the City Clerk's Office for 34 years.*

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

*I have been an Ambassador for several years and enjoy welcoming new and current businesses to the RBGA. The Ambassadors has kept me involved in my Community and the businesses as well as serving on the many subcommittees of the RBGA.*

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

*I love pizza and all varieties and go to all of the local restaurants to satisfy my pizza craving.*

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

*My favorite vacation place is Destin FL.*

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

*I find my job as City Clerk very rewarding and enjoy serving the Citizens of Alton.*

**What are your hobbies?**

*I like to cross stitch, swim, camping and spending time with my family.*

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

*My Grandchildren when they are participating in a sport.*

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

*The one thing on my bucket list is to travel to see the fall colors in New Hampshire.*

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

*Three Charming Chicks. I also enjoy shopping in all of the local stores and supporting our local businesses.*

# Breakfast Connections Attendees Met Their Match in the Riverbend Area

The RiverBend Growth Association hosted its first Breakfast Connections networking event for 2017 on February 15<sup>th</sup> with another record crowd in attendance. This month, 50 individuals gathered, networked, and built relationships in a professional but relaxed environment while enjoying breakfast from the Atrium Hotel & Conference Center's breakfast buffet.

These networking events are led by Director of Member Services, Trish Holmes, and both promoted and planned with the help of the Promotions Committee, who executed yet another successful activity that went with their 2017 theme 'All About Networking'. Meetings

for the year will consist of speakers or activities that can be incorporated into great networking tools. 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 month, the activity 'Meet Your Match' let attendees engage in professional conversations, and encouraged one on one networking in a fun relaxed environment. Individuals were given half of a heart upon arrival. On their half of the heart, a name such as Mario, Beyonce, Bert, and Mickey Mouse were named and the other half to their match was

somewhere in the room where everyone had to find their match. On the backside of the heart were questions to ask and answer to help engage in conversation.

The Small Business of the Month is spotlighted at the beginning of both Breakfast Connections and Total Networking Luncheon events and this month was presented by the Small Business of the Month Awards committee chair, Amy Schaake of Riverbender.com. Schaake had the privilege to speak to the attendees about the committee, the Small Business of the Month nomination and scoring process, and to announce and highlight the winner of February 2017,

Midwest Basement Tech.

Please join us at the next event which will be our **Total Networking Luncheon at Bluff City Grill on March 15th** at 11:30am where Mike Cruz from TheBANK of Edwardsville will be giving a presentation on how to use Facebook for networking.

We hope to see you there.

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



Attendees search the room for their match as everyone engaged in the activity "Meet Your Match"



Brother and sister team Christy Jones and Patrick Harrington of Midwest Basement Tech who is the February 2017 Small Business of the Month Winner



Attendees Doug Brown and Paul Miltzer engage in deep conversation answering questions provided to initiate networking



More networking captured as Pamela Kaizer and Amy Schaake engage in professional conversation

## SAVE THE DATE

**May 25, 2017**



**\$750 Co-host  
\$300 Corporate  
\$150 booth**

## SAVE THE DATE

**June 16, 2017**



**\$500 team fee  
\$125 player fee  
Sponsorships TBA**

# RBGA Young Adults Committee Assist SNIP Alliance in Their Food Pantry

By Allie Troeckler and Adam Flack

The RBGA Young Adults Committee (YAC) consists of two student representatives, one junior and one senior, from five different area high schools: Allie Troeckler and Adam Flack from Civic Memorial, Annie Maynard and Anya Jones from Alton High, Alex Cousley and Lauren Walsh from Marquette Catholic, Haley Shewmake and Nicholas Hayes from East Alton Wood River, and Taylor Antoine and Krysta Meyer from Roxana High School. Each school chooses one non-profit organization to work with. The group then meets once a month, volunteering two hours of their time at each of the five non-profits chosen.

The non-profit chosen by Civic Memorial this year was SNIP Alliance, an organization that provides low-income families with spay-neuter treatments for their cats and dogs. The euthanasia rate has dropped from 75% to 49%. SNIP has had a great impact on that number due to their help with overpopulation of animals. The benefits of SNIP go beyond that of the animals. Many of the families SNIP provides services to are struggling to make ends meet. SNIP Alliance not only provides these families with spay-neuter treatments, but they are also able to provide these families with food, kitty litter, treats, bowls, collars, leashes, and toys.

On February 9, the RBGA Young Adults Committee

spent a few of their morning hours assisting SNIP Alliance in preparing and organizing their food and treats for distribution. Some spent time marking and organizing cat food and dog treats. Others worked hard mixing and preparing dry cat food to be ready for distribution.

The Civic Memorial YAC representatives are very active in their school sports and clubs as well as in their community. Senior Allie Troeckler has been part of the tennis team, cross country team, and is currently captain of her basketball and track teams. She is co-president of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, vice president of Spanish National Honors Society, and is also a member of the National Honors Society and Mu Alpha Theta. Outside of school, Allie enjoys spending her time training and mentoring young basketball players in Bethalto. She is also very active in her church organizations and youth group. After graduating high school, Allie will be attending Southern Illinois University Edwardsville on a basketball scholarship. Junior representative, Adam Flack, is currently part of the baseball and golf teams. He is a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, National Honors Society, Mu Alpha Theta, and student council. Adam is also active in church and youth ministries. After high school, Adam plans to pursue a career in law.



Students spent a few hours in groups to accomplish many tasks at hand.



Students even spent time outside on a cold and chilly morning to get the tasks completed.



Students collaborated on a bigger project together mixing and weighing out 6lbs of cat food in individual bags.

# Thanks to our renewing members

(December 20-February 21)

1st MidAmerica Credit Union  
A+ Automotive  
Abbey Graphic Design & Support Services, Inc.  
Absolute Health Care Services LLC  
Adams Development Company  
AdVantage NEWS  
Affordable Dentistry Today  
Alton Area Animal Aid Association  
Alton Educational Foundation  
Alton Exchange Mall, Inc.  
Alton Main Street, Inc.  
Alton Materials  
Alton Memorial Hospital  
Alton Memorial Sales Inc.  
Alton Motorboat Club  
Alton Physical Therapy  
Alton Physical Therapy  
Alton Regional Convention & Visitors Bureau  
Alton Securities & Asset Advisors  
Alton Sports Tap  
Alton Steel, Inc.  
Alton Symphony Orchestra  
Altonized Community Federal Credit Union  
Ameren Illinois  
American Water  
Answer Midwest, Inc.  
Arrow Signs & Outdoor Advertising  
Atlantis Pools  
Availability, Inc.  
Axis Spinal Care  
B & B Custom T's & Gifts  
BARBERMurphy Group, Inc.  
Barrett Heating & Cooling Inc.  
Barton Properties, LLC  
Bella Milano Restaurant  
Belle Street Key Service  
Bemis, Dr. Frank C., & Associates, Chiropractor  
Benchmark Title  
Berg, Leonard F., Attorney at Law  
Beverly Farm  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwestern IL  
Bliss  
Bluff City Grill  
Boots on the Green  
Boys & Girls Club of Alton  
BrightWay Imaging  
Brush Hair + Makeup  
C.J. Schlosser & Co., L.L.C.  
Caritas Family Solutions  
Carver's BBQ, Inc.  
Catholic Children's Home  
Centerstone  
Challenge Unlimited, Inc.  
Chez Marilyn, Inc.  
CJD E-Cycling  
Claywell Asset Management  
CNB Bank & Trust, N.A.  
Colman's Country Campers  
Community Hope Center  
Community Title & Escrow, Ltd.  
Contegra Construction Company  
Cope Plastics, Inc.  
Cork Tree Creative  
Corridor 67  
COUNTRY Financial® - Jeffrey Lauritzen  
Country Meadows  
Countryside Builders, CS Corp  
CR Systems, Inc.  
Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, Inc.  
Creative Options Graphic Design, Inc.  
Crown Vision Center  
Da-Com Corporation  
Dairy Queen - Godfrey  
Daniel and Henry Co., The  
Davis, Mildred  
Del's Construction  
Dennis Rose & Associates, P.C.  
Dept of Human Services, Division of Rehabilitation Services  
Dixon, Scott  
Donnewald Distributing Company  
Drake Tire & Auto Service  
Droste, Dorothy  
Eagleview Inc. General Contracting  
East Alton Civic Ice Rink Mgmt., Inc.  
East Alton, Village of  
East Alton-Wood River High School District 14  
East End Improvement Assoc.  
Edward Jones - Greg Reinhardt  
Edward Jones - Robert Diaz  
Eliot Gray Construction  
Elsah, Village of  
Encore Bath & Shower Inc.  
E-Z Bow by Tracy  
First Clover Leaf Bank - Wood River  
Fischer Lumber Company  
Foster Township  
Fountains at Godfrey  
Frew's Bridal  
GCS Credit Union  
Genesis Financial Group  
Godfrey First United Methodist Church  
Godfrey Meat Market  
Godfrey, Village of  
Grafton Material Services, Inc.  
Grafton Oyster Bar  
Grafton Winery & Brewhaus  
Grafton Winery the Vineyards  
Grafton, City of  
Haine, State Senator William R.  
Hampton Inn & Suites  
Hanover Associates Storage  
Hartford, Village of  
Heitz Optical Company  
Hendrickson Collision Repair, Inc.  
Hillcrest Apartments  
HireLevel  
Hit-N-Run  
Hornsey Moving and Storage Co.  
IL Metro East Small Business Dev. Center at SIUE  
Illinois American Water  
IMG USA Inc.  
Imo's Pizza - Godfrey  
Int Broth. Of Elect. Workers #649  
Integrity Healthcare of Alton  
Integrity Healthcare of Godfrey  
Jack Schmitt Chevrolet of Wood River  
Jackson Lewis P.C.  
JCH Healthcare  
Jeffrey's Flowers By Design  
Johnson's Corner Inc.  
Johnson's Hearing Center  
Keister, Brian E. & Associates  
Kitchen & Bath Outlet Center  
Kiwanis Club of Alton-Godfrey  
Kreative Kids Learning Center  
Kuddes Advertising Specialties  
Lake Drive Logistics  
Lauschke & Assoc. Real Estate  
Lewis & Clark Insurance  
Liberty Bank - Alton  
Lieber Vision Center, P.C.  
Luken Investment Company  
Lyons Glass Company  
Madison Co. Board Chairman  
Madison Co. Catholic Charities  
Madison Co. Employment & Training Dept.  
Madison Co. Urban League  
Maple Leaf Cottage Inn  
Marathon Pipe Line LLC  
Marian Heights Apartments  
MedExpress Urgent Care  
Midwest Basement Tech  
Midwest Members Credit Union  
Midwest Occupational Medicine  
Mike's Inc.  
Missouri Baptist University  
Morning Star Home Health Care Inc.  
Morningside of Godfrey  
Mosquito Joe of Madison County  
Mother Hen Photography  
My Just Desserts  
Mystical Journeys  
National MS Society  
Nature Institute, The  
Norman Brothers  
Norton & Rain, Inc.  
Oasis Women's Center  
Old Bakery Beer Company  
Options Now Medical Pregnancy Clinic  
OSF Saint Anthony's Health Center  
OSF Saint Anthony's Physician Group  
Partners Insurance Agency  
Peckham Guyton Albers & Viets, Inc.  
Performance Eyecare  
Personal Finance Company  
Phillips 66 Wood River Refinery  
Phoenix Physical Therapy  
Phone Masters  
Piasa Motor Fuels, LLC  
Pope Rental Properties  
Power of the Giraffe  
Pride, Incorporated  
Quality Buick GMC Cadillac  
R.W. Boeker Company, Inc.  
Raging Rivers Water Park, Inc.  
RE/MAX River Bend  
Republic Services / Allied Waste  
Restoration House Auto Body  
River Bend Chiropractic  
Riverbend Head Start & Family Services  
Riverbend Kitchen & Millwork, LLC  
Riverbender.com Community Ctr.  
Rivers Edge Roofing LLC  
RobertsLaw, LLC  
Rolling Hills Golf Course  
Rose Lawn Memory Gardens, Inc.  
Rotary Club Riverbend  
Royal Office Products  
Ruebel Hotel  
S & S Database Consultants  
Salvation Army  
Schwartzkopf Printing, Inc.  
Security Finance  
Senior Services Plus, Inc.  
Sheppard, Morgan & Schwaab, Inc.  
Sherwin Williams Paint Co.  
SIUE Foundation  
Southwestern IL Building Trades Council  
Splish Splash Auto Bath  
St. Peters Hardware & Rental, Inc.  
State Farm Insurance & Financial Services - Karen Wilson  
Stltoday  
Stock Auto Body  
SuePer Marketing Ideas  
SummerOne / Datamax  
Toddle Towne Learning Center  
Tony's Restaurant  
Traube Awning  
United Community Bank  
United Methodist Village - Godfrey  
Walter Hale Ltd. Realty  
WBGZ/AltonDailyNews.com  
Wegman Electric Company  
West Central Development Council - The Job Center  
Wirtz Beverage Illinois Belleville  
Wm M. BeDell Achievement & Resource Ctr.  
Wood River Levee & Drainage Dist.  
Wood River Refinery History Museum  
Wood River, City of  
Woodlands Golf Club & Banquet Facility  
Woodman Collision Center, Inc.  
Zumwalt Construction Co., Inc.

## Trivia Night on March 25 supports Young Adults Committee

The Young Adults committee consists of two representatives from our RBGA member schools and mentors from the RBGA membership. This committee focuses on the importance of guiding our young adults to give back to their community through outreach within the nonprofit organizations in the RBGA membership.

As a partner in the Riverbend community, the RiverBend Growth Association, your regional chamber of commerce and economic development agency, is asking for your support of an upcoming event, the Young Adults Trivia Night on Saturday, March 25, 2017.

Sponsorships are being offered through financial contribution of any amount, purchasing a table for \$80 or choosing to be a round sponsor at \$150 (limited quantity) for the Young Adults fundraiser.

As a round sponsor your logo will be on the media presentation at the event with a 45-second commercial before your sponsored round. All financial sponsors will be listed on the table signs.

Thank you for your consideration and we appreciate your support. Should you have any questions or comments, please call Trish Holmes at 618.467.2282.

**TRIVIA NIGHT**

**Saturday, March 25, 2017**

East Alton Wood River High School  
777 N. Wood River Avenue  
Wood River IL 62095

• Doors Open 6:00 pm • Trivia begins 7:00 pm •

**Paying out 1st, 2nd & 3rd places of \$100, \$75 and \$50**

**\$80 PER TABLE**  
(maximum 8 people per table)

- Basket Raffle
- No guilt 50-50
- Bring your own snacks and non-alcoholic beverages

**Call the RiverBend Growth Association at 618-467-2280 to make your reservation.**

**BATTLE OF THE SCHOOLS**

Alton High School, Oak Memorial High School, O'Leary High School, Roxana High School

**RiverBend GROWTH ASSOCIATION**  
Strong Business, Encouraging Growth in Southeastern Illinois

Benefiting RBGA Young Adults Committee Scholarship Fund

## Study Shows L&C Significantly Impacts Region's Economy

Once again, a recent third party study has shown that Lewis and Clark Community College remains an economic boon to the region, accounting for 4.7 percent of the gross regional product (GRP).

In 2014-15 alone, L&C supported \$369.4 million in income and 6,688 jobs, neither of which would have existed if the college wasn't here, according to Emsi, an economic modeling company.

"If the college weren't here, a number of students would have left the area, and others wouldn't have come here, to pursue their education," said L&C President Dale Chapman. "Because we are here, they live, work and spend money in the region. Then, when they graduate and enter the workforce, 93 percent remain in the area and not only add income to the region, but make their lives and homes here, extending their impact."

Emsi conducted the study to compare the costs and benefits of the college

and determine the return on investment for various constituencies in the community. Issued in Fall 2016, the study focused on the college's 2014-15 academic year statistics, and updated a previous economic impact study completed in 2013.

In 2014-15, Lewis and Clark Community College served 11,377 credit students and 3,046 non-credit students. Those students added \$5 million in income to the regional economy through transportation, rent and other living expenses, equivalent to supporting about 126 jobs.



Not surprisingly, students reap the greatest benefit from the college, at a rate of return of 19.7 percent. That means graduates earn, on average, \$5.70 in higher future earnings for every \$1 invested in their education at Lewis and Clark.

That's because, in the state of Illinois, professionals with an associate degree earn \$6,200 more at their career midpoint than their counterparts with only a high school education.

Taxpayers see a 9.1 percent return on their investment in the college, or \$3.20 for every \$1 invested, as students' higher lifetime earnings contribute to more income tax revenue and local business revenues.

Additionally, Emsi says the college benefits state and local taxpayers through increased tax receipts and a reduced demand for government

supported social services. Through reduced crime, lower unemployment rates and increased health and wellbeing across the state, society sees a cumulative benefit of \$12.80 for every \$1 spent on Lewis and Clark, as long as students remain in the state workforce.

"I think it's important to recognize Emsi's work in higher education of providing economic modeling for more than 700 colleges and universities," said Dennis Krieb, L&C director of Institutional Research and Library Services. "Their research clearly shows Lewis and Clark Community College as a leading economic catalyst for our region."

For more information and analysis of this study, contact Krieb at (618) 468-4300 or [dkrieb@lc.edu](mailto:dkrieb@lc.edu).

For a visual presentation of the college's impact, visit [www.lc.edu/economicimpact](http://www.lc.edu/economicimpact).



## Mayor Report – Brant Walker, City of Alton

2016 was another great year in the City of Alton!

Through the implementation of Community Policing policies, Alton has experienced a 5.8% decrease in crime. With the national rise of heroin use, we were able to put a third officer on the task force which helped combat the trafficking of heroin into our city.

Our highly trained fire department protects the citizens with nine firefighters per day operating out of two fire stations. The Fire Department has an Insurance Service Office (ISO) rating of 2, not only is this the best rating that the City has ever had but it is also the lowest in Madison County. The Fire Department will continue to evaluate its operations so that the City's residents and business owners will continue to benefit



from lower property insurance rates.

The expected completion date of our high-speed rail service is scheduled for June 30, 2017, in which the majority of it is already under roof. This high-speed rail system will allow passengers to travel from Alton

to Chicago in approximately four hours. This mixed use development will include the construction of a new 9,000 square foot train station, mass transit connections, retail development as well as infrastructure improvements to Golf Road, which has been completed.

Thanks to our Building and Zoning Department, we have over \$56 million in new capital investment by local businesses and in excess of 130 business retention visits since 2013. More than 200 new business licenses have been issued since 2013.

The Liberty Bank Alton

Amphitheater was once again a huge success because of featured national acts such as Jana Kramer, Rodney Akins, Travis Tritt and the Charlie Daniels Band. 2016 also marked the second year for the hugely anticipated and successful Sauce Magazine's Food Truck Festival.

With nearly \$4 million in federal grants and county assistance, our Public Works Department has worked aggressively by undertaking many of the challenges to improve city streets, parks and sewer infrastructure. Noticeable enhancements have been made to the city rights-of-way and well as the repaving of some of our main thoroughfares such as College Avenue.

We hosted a multitude of recreational events such as baseball, softball, soccer, basketball, kickball, golf, and Frisbee golf, in our City parks last year. Our parks – Killion, Rock Spring, Gordon Moore, Olin, Hellrung and Riverview

Parks have received thousands of dollars in upgrades such as road lighting and improvements, bathroom upgrades, walking and bicycle trails, ball diamond repairs, basketball court repairs, with more improvements to come.

We have also received \$250,000 grant towards a one of a kind playground that will be universally accessible and inclusive for children of all abilities, the only one in Southern Illinois which will be located in Gordon Moore Park.

With our local economy and business climate still strong and continuing to show steady growth, I along with my administration will continue the work needed to improve our city for our residents in 2017!



# Untrained Employees Cost Companies Time and Money

Company leaders are in a place of great influence and responsibility, so if they lack training and knowledge in how to manage their own workflow, problems can spread quickly throughout an organization. Dr. Cubie King, a business professor at National University in San Diego, Calif., believes most employees desire to be the best for their company. “Underneath that suit of clothes beats the heart of a real person who, more often than not, truly wants to do a great job for your company or organization,” King said. But, to be able to do their best for their company, employees need the right tools and training to help ensure success.

In a recent Hiring Trends survey conducted by Express Employment Professionals of companies, 55 percent of respondents said they do not train their leaders on how to handle an increased workload. This lack of training becomes apparent most often when deadlines need to be met and the pressure to reach goals is at its highest. So what can employees do to avoid letting

the organization down when the demand is high?

Make sure employees are fully aware of job expectations so they can focus on growing the company. Fifty-four percent of business leaders who took the Express survey say they lose up to six hours a week because they are busy being reactive instead of proactive. Oftentimes, the employees in an organization begin working within the parameters of their position, and down the road take on tasks they should delegate to others. Training every person in the organization will help them know their responsibilities and what is expected of them.

If it becomes clear that employees are struggling to keep up with their workloads, consider offering company-sponsored training classes on how to utilize technology, deal with time management, and improve work-flow processes. You can also save money by utilizing people within your own company to teach the classes. Talk with your human resources and information technology teams to see if

they would be willing to offer their perspective on the topic of time management. For example, Maryville College in Tennessee utilizes its staff members by having them lead different employee workshops. This easy solution to a training problem is cost effective and offers employees more time in their own familiar office setting. The trainers may also have information to offer on time management or project management software that could bring an added benefit to the training.

It’s also important to ensure leaders know the value of showing appreciation for their team’s accomplishments. If a complicated, quick turn-around order gets shipped out on time, employees love hearing a “congratulations” or “nice work” from their supervisor. Big parties and free food are great, but they don’t need to be a weekly occurrence. So often, it’s the small thank-you cards or emails and handshakes that can keep an employee motivated to continue working hard.

Finally, make sure the next

person you hire understands the demands of the job. For instance, ask them how they handle high pressure situations, working under deadlines that can quickly change, and how they work with teammates to reach goals. A mentoring system is also important, so that new employees can have someone in place to help them during the first few critical months. Heather Brighton of The Brighton Group, a strategic management and consulting firm, believes this is an overlooked, but very successful tactic. “By introducing recruits to the office culture immediately, mentors make them feel important and necessary to the company’s success,” Brighton said.

Untrained leaders and employees do not need to be the status quo of your business. Simple changes will help make sure your organization has the best trained and prepared leaders who can improve productivity and employee engagement.