

IN THIS ISSUE

Small Business of the Month

- Investment Planners

Chairman Q & A

- Amy Schaake-Smith

Mayor Report

- South Roxana
- Wood River

Welcome our new members

- Cash Store

Ribbon Cuttings

- Madison County Child Advocacy Center
- State Farm - Steve Tassinari
- United Methodist Village

RBGA Members in the News

- Centerstone
- Express Employment Professionals

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

Captain of the RiverBend Winners Honored at 25th Annual State of the RiverBend Luncheon

The State of the RiverBend Luncheon was held Thursday, October 25, 2018 on the campus of Lewis and Clark Community College in the Commons. The Captain of the RiverBend awards are presented to businesses, organizations, individuals or government bodies that have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to public enhancement, community service and/or economic enhancement of the region.

There were eight outstanding recipients this year: three in the Community Involvement category, three in the Economic Enhancement category, and two in the Government & Public Enhancement category.

RiverBend Growth Association Chairman John Roberts of Roberts Motors and Chair-Elect Rob Schwartz of TheBANK of Edwardsville presented the awards.

This year's recipients included:

1st MidAmerica Credit Union has proven their commitment to our region

through the years, but this past year they stepped up and donated \$50,000 to the Gordon Moore Park Restoration Project as part of their more than \$163,000 in total donations. 1st MidAmerica's staff also added more than 4,000 hours of their personal time in the form of volunteerism to our various communities.

Advantage started publishing June 6, 1986, the brainchild of Jim Seibold and Sharon McRoy. Over the next 32 years the company grew and expanded while delivering its publication to mailboxes throughout the Riverbend area. Advantage has published articles promoting local people and commerce while supporting more than 50 local charities, events and fundraisers.

Metroplex Communications d/b/a WBGZ Radio & Alton Daily News serves the Riverbend as our only local commercial radio station. It has broadcast since February 4, 1937 with local content that includes news, sports and weather. In 2015 they

added an FM signal at 94.3 on the dial. Look forward to an announcement soon on another expansion of their services!

Alton Memorial Hospital took another leap forward this past year with the addition of a 41,000 square foot addition to its campus's Medical Office Building B. The \$8.7 million project provides space for 27 doctors and mid-level providers. AMH has broken ground on a new 9,000 sq. ft. medical building in Bethalto.

Imperial Manufacturing Group has expanded its footprint in Alton from an initial 54,000 square feet when it moved its Hamel, IL US operations to the Riverbend in 2006, to its more than 260,000 sq. ft. today. Since then they have become an integral part of the region's economy employing some 250 people.

OSF Saint Anthony's Health Center has been rooted in the Riverbend community for more than 90 years. Late last fall

continued on page 2



WBGZ Radio



Alton Community Unit School District 11

Captain Awards (continued from page 1)

OSF opened a new \$5 million, 13,000 sq. ft. Primary Care and Prompt Care Office in Godfrey. It is part of their effort to bring healthcare to where people live and work and not have to travel for high-quality services.

Lewis and Clark Community College is widely recognized for its impact on the Riverbend Region both economically and

culturally. This August Lewis and Clark Community College opened the new \$4.5 million, 16,000 sq. ft. Weber Workforce Center. The Center has 30 welding stations with specialized training capabilities to help fill the more than 400 job openings in and around the St. Louis region.

Alton Community Unit School District#11 re-invested \$3.5 million in

the Milton area by renovating the former Mark Twain Elementary School into the new home for the District's K through 12 Special Education students. The students formerly housed at the James Educational Center began classes there in January 2018.

SPONSORS OF THE EVENT WERE:

- 1st MidAmerica Credit Union
- AdVantage
- Alton Comm. Unit School
- Dist. 11
- Alton Memorial Hospital
- American Water
- Argosy Casino Alton
- Beverly Farm
- Carrollton Bank
- Clark Properties
- CNB Bank & Trust, N.A.
- Contegra Construction Co.
- Donco
- Godfrey, Village of
- Lewis and Clark Community College
- Liberty Bank
- Midwest Members Credit Union
- Olin Brass
- OSF HealthCare Saint Anthony's Health Center
- Phillips 66 Wood River Refinery
- RiverBender.com
- St. Louis Regional Airport
- The Telegraph
- TheBANK of Edwardsville
- United Methodist Village
- WBGZ/AltonDailyNews.com
- Werts Welding & Tank Service, Inc.



Lewis and Clark Community College



Advantage



Alton Memorial Hospital



OSF Saint Anthony's Health Center



1st MidAmerica Credit Union



Imperial Manufacturing Group

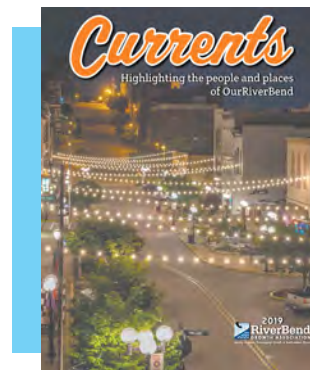
Welcome our newest RBGA member

Cash Store

629 Wesley Drive
 Wood River IL 62095-1970
 618-258-0282
cashstore.com/local/payday-loans-wood-river



Are you looking for a place that offers cash loans in Wood River, IL? Then look no further than the Cash Store. We offer loans that are a better alternative to payday loans. Our friendly staff is ready to help you find a loan solution that best meets your needs. All you have to do is stop by the store to start.



WATCH for our 2019 magazine, Currents, in the mail. Learn more about the people and places of OurRiverBend.

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TheBANK of Edwardsville

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Jennifer Jackson
Helmkamp Construction Co.

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Alan Meyer
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Stephanie Monroe
Riverbend Chiropactic Center

Scott Reichmann
BarberMurphy Group

Don Retzlaff
Argosy Casino Alton

Dan St. Peters
St. Peters Hardware & Rental

Terry Shewmake
IBEW Local 649

Jim Shrader
Cindy Smalley

Cindy Smalley
Cope Plastics

Sam Stemm
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Dave Stevenson
Quality Buick GMC Cadillac

Steve Thompson
Carrollton Bank

Dwight Werts
Werts Welding & Tank Service

Karen Wilson
State Farm Insurance

Denise Wolff
Berkshire Hathaway Home Services Elite Properties

Jess Woodman
Woodman Collision Center

Madison County Child Advocacy Center Celebrates 15th Anniversary with Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

On September 27th, the RBGA hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony to help celebrate with Madison County Child Advocacy Center (CAC) on their new renovations and to congratulate them on 15 years of service.

The CAC renovation includes two new waiting rooms, an additional interview and observation room, new offices, and a new training room.

The mission of CAC is to provide a professional and child-friendly environment to assist in the investigation of allegations of child abuse,



provide access to services and treatment for victims and their families and raise awareness within the community.

Find out more about CAC at:

Website: www.co.madison.il.us

il.us

Facebook: www.facebook.com/madcocac/

Phone: (618) 296-5390

RBGA announces new Member Communications Representative

Alex St. Peters, a graduate of Lewis and Clark Community College and Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, has started a full-time position at the RiverBend Growth Association.

Alex St. Peters first started interning with the RiverBend Growth Association in January of 2017. As an intern he acted as an office assistant and receptionist. In May of the same year he was hired on for part-time work as an office assistant, event assistant, marketing and social media coordinator, and (like all the staff at the Growth Association) helping the RBGA's membership in whatever capacity he could.

"I am thankful for the opportunity to help the Riverbend region grow during this exciting time, and for the opportunity to connect with our members. I look forward to the journey I am about to begin, and I am excited about the work I will be able to do with the RiverBend

Growth Association," St. Peters remarked.

Alex St. Peters helps coordinate the committees of the RiverBend Growth Association, and is the Co-Chair of the Young Adults Committee. As Co-Chair he was able to help the students of the committee raise \$5,200. The students then voted on which Non-Profit they volunteered with should receive half of the money, and the student with the most involvement with the committee received the other half. The five Non-Profits the Committee volunteered with were: Beverly Farm Foundation, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwestern Illinois, Centerstone, Kreative Kids Learning Center, and The Power of the Giraffe.

"Alex is already a valued member of our team, bringing him on full-time will allow him to expand on the meaningful work he is currently doing, specifically with branding the Growth Association and the Young Adults Committee," John

Keller, President of the RiverBend Growth Association, explained.

As the Member Communications

Representative Alex will be assisting members with press releases and social media, being a part of different committees and organizations, and helping plan RiverBend Growth Association's events.

Alex St. Peters is a long time member of the Riverbend residing in Alton. He is a graduate of the RiverBend Growth Association's Leadership Academy, has volunteered at the Boys and Girls Club of Alton, participated in Reach Out And Read with the Alton School District, and is a part of the Upper Alton Association. Through Alton High School's Work-Study program he was an Internal Marketing Intern at Cope Plastics in Alton.



RBGA Names Investment Planners its October 2018 Small Business of the Month

The RiverBend Growth Association has named Investment Planners – Alton as its Small Business of the Month for October.

Investment Planners is a full service financial and investment planning advisory firm. They are partnered with CJ Schlosser, a local tax and accounting firm, and offer an array of services with this partnership, and are able to provide the highest level of service to their clients.

Offering an extensive range of investment options to achieve your financial needs is their priority. They understand that your money and investments are important whether

you are just starting out creating a nest egg or have an established one. Being there every step of the way is of utmost importance.

Investment Planners

233 E. Center Dr.
Alton, IL 62002
618-466-0100

Hours
Monday through Friday -
8:00AM – 4:00PM
Saturday - by appointment



Website: ipiriverbend.com



PODCAST available at
<http://www.growthassociation.com/page/lets-talk/>



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

Meet Amy, Committee Chair

Where do you work and what's your title?

Riverbender.com - Sales & Marketing Manager

List the committee you chair and other RBGA committees you're on.

I presently chair the Awards Committee, previously an Ambassador for 10+ years.

What's your favorite Riverbend restaurant?

Bluff City Grill

Where do you like to visit for vacation?

Boating on the Mississippi is a weekly vacation!

Name one of your most important leadership skills.

I am very detail oriented.

What do you like most about your job?

Meeting new people every day. Knowing the service I am offering will improve their profit margin!

What are your hobbies?

Spending time with my grandchildren

(Brooklynn and Evan) is my favorite past-time and I love to fish! (I out-fish Joe nearly every time) LOL

If you were stranded on a desert island, what three things would you bring?
my iPhone! LOL, my favorite flip-flops, Cheezits

What is your favorite sport to watch?
Live - BLUES HOCKEY, TV-Cards Baseball

What one sentence would you like to hear from your boss?
Thank you for making a difference.

What is one of the things on your bucket list?
To have the opportunity to 'meet' Blake Shelton.

Where do you like to Shop Local?
Believe it or not, I do not enjoying shopping.



Amy Schaake-Smith

CHAMBER REPRESENTATIVE



My name is Mandi Motley. I am a Senior Business Analyst for American Water at the Customer Service Organization in Alton. I lead the Customer Service Organization with handling all acquisitions and mergers in American Water. I work with the seller and with all areas of the business to ensure a smooth transition. Mandi can be reached at 618-433-4094.

RBGA member Mandi is being spotlighted because she attended Business After Hours this month at SSM Health Physical Therapy. Join us at next month's Business After Hours on November 15 at Bottoms Up Sports Bar & Grill with your business card for your chance to become a Chamber Representative.

October Business After Hours held at SSM Health Physical Therapy

The RBGA would like that thank everyone that attended Business After Hours. A special thanks to our hosts for helping put on an amazing event.

SSM Health Physical Therapy

Location: 1 Professional Dr. Suite 10 in Alton, IL (Lower Level of Alton Multispecialists)

<https://www.ssmphysicaltherapy.com/>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SSMHealthPhysicalTherapyAltonIL>
Phone: (618) 462-4621

Decaro's

Location: 602 E. 3rd Street in Alton, IL
www.decarosalton.com
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/decarosalton/>
Phone: (618) 433-9999



RBGA Members Grew Networks with an Insurance Agent

A successful Breakfast Connections was held at Best Western Premier as RBGA members learned why having an insurance agent in their network is important.

This presentation was done by Jeffrey Lauritzen with Country Financial who helped members comfortably understand how an insurance agent can be beneficial to one's network.

The RBGA thanks everyone for attending and Jeff Lauritzen for the presentation. Our next event will be our Total Networking event that will be held on November 14th Bluff City Grill.



OSF HealthCare Medical Group opens clinic at United Methodist Village

OSF HealthCare Medical Group at United Methodist Village Grand Opening and Open House was held on October 11th 2018. The event included speakers, refreshments, musical entertainment, giveaways and a door prize drawing. Area business leaders and community officials were on hand for a ribbon cutting ceremony at 2 p.m., hosted by the River Bend Growth Association. Tours of United Methodist Village and the OSF Clinic are available on request. "OSF HealthCare Saint Anthony's Health Center and United Methodist Village Retirement Community have a mutual desire to serve the community with top quality healthcare services in close proximity to where residents reside and recreate," said Ajay Pathak, President of OSF HealthCare. "We share a goal to focus on maintaining residents in their homes, in a stable and healthy state, to foster optimal quality of life." Anita Martinez, Executive Director, United Methodist Village and Pathak agree there is mutual benefit to serving shared OSF patients and UMV



residents in this setting, a great asset for both organizations, but more importantly for those they serve. As a result, OSF Saint Anthony's has established a partnership with United Methodist Village to provide an array of beneficial services onsite. This partnership will enable the residents of United Methodist Village to have convenient and coordinated care onsite delivered by OSF HealthCare, a regional leader in the provision of healthcare services.

Watch a video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VIG0TERvGe4&t=4s>

MAYOR REPORT - Barbara Overton, Village of South Roxana



Here are some of the things going on in the village during 2018.

We have annexed and welcomed two more properties on Oldenburg Road just north of New Poag Road expanding our village to the south of central village.

Lots have been purchased on the corner of Missouri Avenue and Main Street for the new Jurjevich Park with a Park and Recreation grant from Madison County Community Development. The South Roxana Grant Committee headed by Chairperson Terrah Bevelo has the plans completed for a fitness themed park with a near 3/4 mile walk path, eight workout stations, pavilion and a playground that includes handicap accessible equipment. Phase one of the three phase project is hoped to be completed by fall of 2019. The park is named for Charlie and Eva Jurjevich, former business owners and community leaders

who were instrumental in the creation of the Village.

The Village is continuing the cleanup of derelict properties with the demolition of two structures. Two more demolitions are scheduled for the winter of 2018-2019 with Madison County Community Development funding. Two annual clean-ups are scheduled for the first week in March and first week in October each year for large item pickups and a dumping program for individual owner permit dumping throughout the year.

Work is completed to secure the village hall with entry to building at the west entrance only, a secure window for water bill payments and a waiting room for persons needing to talk with the police department.

Street signs and stop signs have been replaced throughout the entire village.

Thanks to Conoco Phillips Refinery for removing gravel from vacant parking lots along Madison Avenue and planting grass which makes for a cleaner and greener entry to our village. They donated the gravel to the village for our street projects.

RBGA Upcoming Events



Tuesday, November 13

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Post Commons | 300 Alby Street,
Alton
\$12 admission



Wednesday, November 14

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Bluff City Grill | 424 East Broadway,
Alton
\$12 admission



Thursday, November 15

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Bottoms Up Sports Bar & Grill
2204 Fosterburg Road, Alton
\$5 admission

All members are invited!

Visit our website calendar for event
details - GrowthAssociation.com

Steve Tassinari opens State Farm office

The RiverBend Growth Association, the chamber of commerce and economic development organization for the Riverbend, hosted a ribbon cutting for the grand opening of Steve Tassinari – State Farm on October 5th, 2018. Steve Tassinari was born and raised in the Alton/Godfrey area. Tassinari is able to arrange simple home and car insurance quotes and has a licensed team of four professionals to serve your needs. Motorcycle, boat, and RV Insurance are also available through Tassinari. You can talk about life insurance and a life needs analysis with Tassinari. As a

State Farm Insurance Agent in Godfrey, Steve Tassinari is able to provide insurance in the Alton/Godfrey area as well as Missouri. Don't forget about their "Good Neighbor Services & Discounts."

"I think it is great that Steve Tassinari, a local resident of our area has taken over the State Farm Agency that used to be Butch Chapel's. With his family's name and the backing of State Farm, that will be a very, very special addition to the Village of Godfrey. I welcome Steve Tassinari and his valued employees to the Village," the Mayor of Godfrey

Mike McCormick commented.

If you would like more information please visit stevetass.com. On his website you can learn more about Steve Tassinari, file a claim, send a payment, find simple insights® articles, and get a quote. Tassinari is also on Facebook at State Farm – Steve Tassinari Insurance Agent. "We are here to help life go right," Tassinari concluded.



618-466-2700
2709 Godfrey Rd.
Godfrey, IL 62035

MAYOR REPORT - Cheryl Maguire, City of Wood River



2018 has been a busy year for the City of Wood River. After three years of waiting,

the most anticipated event is the opening of our new 20,000 sq. ft. police station. Construction is on target for a November grand opening. The property, a reclaimed brownfield, was donated to the city by BP along with \$6.8 million dollars for this much needed facility.

The police department has been busy partnering with the zoning department on code enforcement by issuing warning citations when violations are noticed when officers are out on a call. These warnings expedite the zoning violations process, in order to get properties cleaned up. A new ordinance has been passed which allows the legal removal of abandoned

vehicles. Another program about to begin is the licensing of landlords to educate them on how to help make our neighborhoods crime free.

It was another good year for home sales with 103 owner occupied houses sold, with several new home builds. Fulford Homes has purchased the Grandview Hills subdivision which has 82 lots. They expect to break ground within the next 30 days and their target market is young professional families.

Wood River has welcomed 16 new businesses some of which include Burger King, Fire and Smoke BBQ, Ironworks Auto Sales, Wheels and Deals Auto Sales, Lee Barrow Photography, Total Wireless and Imo's is still on target for a new build. There have been eight new ownerships such as Cleary Shoes, Wood River Printing and Schnucks. Walmart added a full on-line shopping and pickup service and Pumphouse completed another expansion and parking

lot renovation, along with a pending expansion of Aldi.

Our Public Services has garnered several grants to upgrade our city streets. Work was just completed on a \$922,000 street and drainage improvement project from Edwardsville Road to Woodland. This grant was awarded from federal and county funds. Other improvement grants include \$550,000 for Phase II Downtown Streetscape, \$500,000 Phase II for Edwardsville Road to Madison Avenue, \$500,000 for both Phase I & II for the Wood River Avenue road improvements. All these are contingent of the funds being received and the construction cycles.

The Park and Recreation department just replaced the aging ceiling in the Roundhouse recreational center through a \$14,000 grant. The upgrades and renovation of Emerick Sports Park has had \$170,000 with grants and donations. The park

will have a new playground which was originally installed in the 1980s and many added new features. The most enthusiastic support and endearing donation came from the late Mayor Leroy Emerick. Demolition is set to begin on the Aquatic Center with the ground EPA approved for any future possible construction.

A challenge for the city has been assessing what programs the residents of Wood River would like to see happen and how to fund these projects. Beginning in July, the city held many public meetings to get citizen input. The city council is placing priorities on these desired projects and looking at funding options for their implementation.

In spite of the challenges, Wood River is progressing with several businesses making contact and viewing possible locations at the Envirotech Park and at I-255. As mayor, I am looking forward to what 2019 will bring.

Employee Training - Is The Investment Worth It?

The investment in training is worth it if a business desires to recruit and retain talented, highly motivated professionals. Today's top performers are selecting jobs based on more than salary and stability. Motivated, ambitious and talented individuals view ongoing professional development as a huge benefit and seek businesses that are committed to investing in their professional future.

Businesses investing in structured, ongoing training/coaching system experience fewer headaches, fewer employee and customer complaints, and fewer turnovers. Employees who are well-trained and are offered

ongoing training, refresher programs and coaching are less likely to make costly mistakes or contribute to customer complaints. They also tend to do things in a timely and more efficient manner.

Well-trained employees are less likely to make costly errors, and tend to respond to responsibilities quickly and efficiently. They tend to be less stressed and happier, which means they are less likely to seek other positions, which would result in extensive interviewing, advertising and training costs.

Nothing beats a well-trained employee for attracting and retaining happy, loyal customers. Customers are

increasingly more informed and are selecting companies with well-educated and -trained staff.

A "We" culture is great for the employees, customers and company. Employees are more engaged, committed and invested in a work environment that projects a structured and well-tuned team.

Thriving businesses recognize that they must continue to invest in their people. They recognize employees are on loan to them and that the more they invest in employees' personal and professional growth, the greater the return on their investment will be. Granted, many employees will leave and move on to bigger

and better opportunities, but they in turn are incredible ambassadors for your business, sharing with others the many opportunities your business offers employees by investing in their personal and professional goals.

© Richard J. Avdoian, MS, MSW, CSP (2009)

Richard J. Avdoian is the Founder & CEO of Midwest Business Institute, Inc. a business coaching and consulting firm located in Metro St. Louis. Richard works with businesses committed to training and retaining highly motivated productive employees. Richard can be reached at Richard@RichardAvdoian.com.

RBGA Members IN THE NEWS

Centerstone names new Chief Operating Officer

Centerstone, a national leader in behavioral health care, announced Anne Tyree, MPA, CFRE as the company's chief operating officer for Illinois (COO). Tyree will head day-to-day operations to ensure Centerstone grows and maintains operational excellence in across locations in Southern Illinois.

"Anne is a visionary leader whose dedication to Centerstone, its employees and its clients is only matched by her passion for our life saving services," said John Markley, chief executive officer of Centerstone. "She has a personal connection to our mission and demonstrates that every day."

Tyree served as chief administrative officer of Centerstone since May 2018, and previously served as vice president of marketing and business development. Tyree has worked with Centerstone and its legacy organizations for more than 16 years and has over 25 years of experience consulting with, managing

and growing not for profit organizations. Her prior roles have included overseeing financial and administrative operations for the legacy organization, in addition to developing and implementing large scale service initiatives and facilities development.

"Anne brings a wealth of knowledge to this role and I am confident that she will provide the leadership, management and vision necessary to support Centerstone's clinical and operational goals," Markley said.

Tyree has a master's of public administration focused in health care administration from American Public University System and a bachelor's in English from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Tyree has 20 years' experience as a Certified Fund Raising Executive, having earned the certification from CFRE International. She is a resident of rural Jersey County, Illinois.

"I am honored to be chosen for the position," said Tyree. "Centerstone's behavioral health, early childhood,

vocational and residential services not only improve the quality of life for our clients, but they also reduce overall health care costs. My goal is to see Centerstone as the provider of choice for these services in Southern Illinois."

Centerstone is one of the nation's largest not-for-profit providers of community-based behavioral health care, offering a full range of mental health services, substance abuse treatment and intellectual and developmental disabilities services in Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky and Tennessee. Centerstone Illinois is a growing, \$45 million entity in the Southern and Metro-East areas of Illinois, with a broad array of service lines and 650 staff members. Annually the organization serves over 12,000 adults, children and families across eight counties.

About Centerstone

Centerstone is a not-for-profit health care organization dedicated to delivering care that changes people's lives. We provide mental health and

substance abuse treatment, education and support to communities in Florida, Illinois, Indiana,

Kentucky, and Tennessee and additionally offer individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities life skills development, employment and housing services. Nationally, we have specialized programs for service members, veterans and their loved ones, and develop employee assistance programs for businesses of all sizes. Our research institute improves behavioral healthcare through research and technology, and our foundation secures philanthropic resources to support our work. For more information, visit www.centerstone.org.



Edwardsville's Express Employment Professionals recognized

On Saturday September 22, 2018 the Edwardsville, Illinois office attended the annual Sales Summit for Express Employment Professionals in Indianapolis, Ind. With over 700 offices nationwide the Edwardsville office was recognized as achieving the highest growth in administrative staffing for the Midwest Region. Chairman and Co-Founder Bob Funk

presented the award to the members of the Edwardsville team. Owners Marc and Diana Voegele would like to extend well deserved congratulations to our staff and grateful appreciation to the Metro East clients who have put their faith and trust in us.

