

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



DECEMBER 2016

Volume 14 | Issue 12

IN THIS ISSUE

Small Business of the Month

- Elias, Kallal and Schaaf Funeral Home

Meet Your Ambassadors

- Erin Spain
- Maura Wuellner

Ribbon Cuttings

- Sherer Chiropractic Center

Welcome our newest members

- Confluence Business Advisors
- Paychex

Business After Hours held at Spectators Bar & Grill

The RiverBend Growth Association held a monthly networking event and wrapped up 2016 for Business After Hours December 8, 2016 inside of Bowl Haven Lanes at Spectators Bar & Grill. RiverBend Growth Association members enjoyed the food and beverages, as networking took place throughout the evening and an attendance prize was provided by Bowl Haven that allowed one lucky person to have a pizza/bowling party for 10. Stop in Bowl Haven on Fridays for Cosmic Bowl from 10p-close and call to reserve your lane for Starlight Bowling on Saturday nights at 618-465-2695. Bowl Haven is located at 3003 Washington Avenue in Alton.

The RiverBend Growth Association thanks Bowl Haven and all their staff for putting on another wonderful event. Please check out our Facebook

page and website for reminders and event updates

Business After Hours is held monthly to gather, unwind, network, and to build business relationships in a relaxed atmosphere while expanding your contacts to help you and your business **GROW**.

Please join us next month on January 12th from 5p-7p for a professional but relaxed evening of networking at Alton Sports Tap.



RBGA Members enjoy the evening



Thank you to our hosts for the evening.



RBGA Members enjoy the evening



Mike Drake of CNB Bank & Trust and Keith Twichell of Williams Office Products

Elias, Kallal and Schaaf Funeral Homes & Crematory is December's Small Business of the Month

On December 8th, the RBGA and members gathered at Elias, Kallal and Schaaf Funeral Homes & Crematory to present the Small Business of the Month award for December 2016 at their 1313 W. Delmar Avenue in Godfrey. Other locations are Alton and Bethalto.

Elias, Kallal and Schaaf Funeral Homes & Crematory is pleased to welcome your visit to their warm and comfortable offices. Elias, Kallal & Schaaf Funeral Home was designed to be unlike any other funeral home. It is truly a one-of-a-kind place. They invite you to come in and see for yourself how they're revolutionizing the way people think about funeral service.

For more information, call

618-377-4000 or visit their site today at <http://www.eliaskallalandschaaf.com>.

Please join us in congratulating Elias, Kallal and Schaaf Funeral Homes & Crematory for being December's Small Business of the Month

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. The monthly winners receive an approximately \$4,200 marketing package. The association can be reached at 618-467-2280.



Ambassadors joined the owners of Elias, Kallal and Schaaf Funeral Homes & Crematory: Mary Boulds of the City of Alton, Michelle Blackwood of Challenge Unlimited, Therese Kuddes of Kuddes Advertising Specialties, Jerry Gibson, Kurt Ferguson of The Telegraph, David Knowles of Atrium Hotel, Cara Paschal of Options Now Medical Pregnancy Clinic, and Tom Hoechst of CNB Bank & Trust.

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

Congratulations to all the 2016 Small Business of the Month Winners.

January	Quality Buick GMC Cadillac
February	Jeni J's
March	Loading Dock
April	Goulding's Jewelers
May	Raging Rivers WaterPark
June	Eppel's Pantry
July	Freer Auto Body
August	Godfrey Meat Market
September	Alton Marina
October	Foxes Grove Supportive Living Community
November	Midwest Occupational Medicine
December	Elias, Kallal and Schaaf Funeral Homes & Crematory

Board of Directors

Karen Wilson, Chairman
State Farm Insurance

Karen Cooper, Past Chairman
Illinois American Water

Augie Wuellner, Chairman Elect
Alton Securities & Asset Advisors

Mike Fitzgerald, Treasurer
Scheffel Boyle

Jeff Allsman
Village of Bethalto

Tom Berry
Jackson Lewis P.C.

Dale Blachford
Liberty Bank

Jake Bodi
Ameren

David Braasch
Alton Memorial Hospital

Greg Caffey
City of Alton

Stephanie Dykstra
Imaging Center

Melissa Erker
Phillips 66 Wood River Refinery

Mike Farrell
Helmkamp Construction Co.

Mark Haggard
CNB Bank & Trust, N.A.

Kevin Hamilton
Carpenters Local 664

Pam Heepke
Raifort Commerce Park

Jennifer Jacobsen
Argosy Casino Alton

John Keller

Charles Linnemeyer
Alton Steel Inc.

Alan Meyer
1st MidAmerica Credit Union

Scott Reichmann
BarberMurphy Group

John Roberts
Roberts Motors

Ed Ryrie
Regions Private Wealth Mgt.

Kent Scheffel
Lewis and Clark Comm. College

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

Charlie Yancey
IBEW Local 649

Welcome our newest members to the RiverBend Growth Association

Confluence Business Advisors

Ronald Tanner CMO
Godfrey IL
(618) 570-9125
confluenceba.com



Confluence Business Advisors is a single source small business consulting team. Our services prepare your company or organization for growth, sale and/or transition to new ownership, repositioning for changing markets, or restore a damaged reputation. Clients look to us for: Strategy and Planning, Business Development, Communications, Digital Content, Web Development, Video and Event Marketing, Training and Education.

For the price of a part-time employee, hire an experienced TEAM! Online @ ConfluenceBA.com

Paychex, Inc.

Barry Schranck Human Capital Management Consultant
16305 Swingley Ridge Rd. Suite 500
Chesterfield MO 63017-1842
(618) 975-3619
paychex.com



Paychex, Inc. (NASDAQ: *Payroll • HR • Retirement • Insurance* PAYX)

is a leading provider of integrated human capital management solutions for payroll, HR, retirement, and insurance services. By combining its innovative software-as-a-service technology and mobility platform with dedicated, personal service, Paychex empowers businesses to focus on the growth and management of their business. Backed by 45 years of industry expertise, Paychex serves approximately 605,000 clients across more than 100 locations and pays one out of every 12 American private sector employees. Learn more about Paychex by visiting www.paychex.com, and stay connected on [Twitter](https://twitter.com) and [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com).



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

BATTLE OF THE SCHOOLS

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

Benefiting RBGA Young Adults Committee Scholarship Fund

AMBASSADOR SPOTLIGHT

Erin Spain

Advantage News

Erin Spain is a native of the Alton area. She grew up in Godfrey and continues to live there with her husband, Tom and their children. She is a graduate of Marquette Catholic High School and the University of Missouri. In 2009, Erin joined Today's Advantage as an account executive and continued as one through the transition to what is now Advantage News.



The thing that Erin enjoys most about working at Advantage News is the time she spends meeting local business people. "I really like getting to know people in the community and working with them to help them increase their business through partnerships with the Advantage News," she said.

When Erin is not working, she is busy with her family. She spends much of her time attending the kids' school and sporting events and volunteering at St. Ambrose Catholic School. Erin is relatively new as an Ambassador for the RiverBend Growth Association and looks forward to continuing to serve and form relationships in the community.

Maura Wuellner

United Way of Greater St. Louis

Maura Wuellner enjoys being part of the RBGA Ambassadors. As a Director with over-sight responsibilities for two Illinois division offices, one in East Alton and the other in Granite City, she is part of the regional management team for United Way. Her primary responsibilities are with the fundraising campaigns for both the Southwest Illinois and Tri-Cities Area Division offices. The generosity of the companies in the Riverbend area is impressive and she has especially enjoyed working with local companies who run campaigns for United Way. This year's campaign yielded an impressive \$1,750,000 for the Southwest Illinois Division, which supports 38 agencies in a five county footprint.



Maura and her husband, Augie, live in Godfrey and have two grown children and one grand-dog.

Thursday, January 26, 2017



5:30 pm • Social and Registration

6:15 pm • Dinner

7:00 pm • Board of Directors Election & Program

Lewis and Clark Community College Commons
5800 Godfrey Road | Godfrey IL

\$55 individual reservation | \$650 corporate sponsorship

WE WILL BE HONORING THE 2016 SMALL BUSINESSES OF THE MONTH.

January Quality Buick GMC Cadillac
February Jeni J's
March Loading Dock
April Gouling's Jewelers
May Raging Rivers WaterPark
June Eppel's Pantry & Deli

July Freer Auto Body
August Godfrey Meat Market
September Alton Marina
October Foxes Grove Supportive Living Comm.
November Midwest Occupational Medicine
December Elias Kallal and Schaaf Funeral Homes

Visit GrowthAssociation.com calendar for details and reservations.

Sherer Chiropractic Center opens second location

On November 29th the RiverBend Growth Association joined Sherer Chiropractic Center to celebrate their second location as Riverbender.com captured the celebration with a video presentation.

Their second location is 5204 Godfrey Rd, Godfrey IL. Sherer Chiropractic Center had a ribbon cutting earlier in the year for their first location at 321 Carpenter St, Jerseyville, IL.

Their mission is to provide superior care at an affordable price. Through chiropractic adjustments, acupuncture and massage therapy, they treat the underlying cause of the problem not just the symptoms.

Dr. Jacob Sherer earned his Doctor of Chiropractic at Logan University. He also earned a Master's Degree in Sports Science & Rehabilitation and a Master's Degree in Nutrition & Human Performance. Dr. Sherer teaches two courses for the Masters of Nutrition program at Logan University. Dr. Sherer specializes in sports injury and prevention as well as hip and low back injuries.

Dr. Katie Drake Sherer earned her Doctor of Chiropractic as well as a Master's in Sports Science and

Rehabilitation and a Master's Degree in Nutrition & Human Performance from Logan University. Dr. Katie specializes in prenatal and infant care as well as shoulder injury, neck and upper back pain. She also provides one on one weight loss and nutritional counseling, specializing in weight loss by using a clean eating approach to a healthy lifestyle change. Dr. Katie's Kitchen is also located within the couple's Godfrey office where she conducts monthly clean eating freezer meal classes.

Office manager Melessia Jones is a certified CA (chiropractic assistant) and works full time at the Godfrey location. Brittany Droste is the part time office receptionist.

For more information and details about services offered, please contact Sherer Chiropractic Center at 618.468.1188 or like them at <https://www.facebook.com/shererchiropracticcentergodfrey/>. Visit their website at <http://www.shererchiropractic.com/> for more information. Email the office at shererchiropractic@gmail.com to request your appointment today.



Godfrey Mayor Mike McCormick joins the RBGA Ambassadors and Sherer Chiropractic Center staff to celebrate their new location in Godfrey.

Ambassadors pictured: David Knowles of Atrium Hotel, Matt Kotzamanis of TheBANK of Edwardsville, Cara Pascal of Options Now Medical Pregnancy Clinic, Nancy Bivens of WBGZ, Therese Kuddes of Kuddes Advertising Specialties, Tom Hoechst of CNB Bank & Trust, Stacey Loveland of Foxes Grove Supportive Living Community, and Kurt Ferguson of The Telegraph.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The RBGA has a section on our website with Employment Opportunities.

It's located at

<http://www.growthassociation.com/page/employment-opportunities/>.

It can also be accessed from the header of any page throughout the site.

Members can post their job openings on this page.

Here's the link: <http://www.growthassociation.com/page/create-employment-ad/>

Thanks to our renewing members for 2017.

(paying December 1, 2015 –
December 19, 2016)

A Closer Look Investigations, LLC	Community Living Options	Jersey State Bank	Riverbend Family Ministries
Airport Plaza Bowl	Confluence Business Advisors	Julia's Banquet Center	Riverbend Pediatric Dentistry
Alton Comm. Unit School Dist. 11	Cookie Factory Bakery & Café	Jun Construction Company	RiverBender.com
Alton Little Theater, Inc.	Crisis Food Center	Kane Mechanical Inc.	Robert "Bob" Sanders Waste Systems, Inc.
Alton Marina (Parrot Pointe Marine, Inc.)	Culligan Water Conditioning	Lewis and Clark Community College	Robert "Chick" Fritz, Inc.
Alton MultiSpecialists	DanMar Enterprises, Inc.	Logolt	Roberts Motors
American Cancer Society	Dan's Garage Door Service	Loy Miller Talley, PC	Rose Optical
American Water Resources	Dream Home Realty Centre, Inc.	Loy, Everett	Rosewood Care Center
American Water Resources Contract Services	Eagle Publications, Inc.	Luken Agency, Inc., The	Rosewood Heights Sanitary District
America's Central Port	Edwardsville Intelligencer	Macias Insurance Agency, Inc.	Rotary Ram Inc.
Andy's Tire & Auto Service	Elias, Kallal and Schaaf Funeral Homes & Crematory	Madison Co. Child Advocacy Center	Roxana Comm. Unit School Dist. #1
Angela McDowell Counseling Services	Elijah P's Burgers & Brews	Madison Co. Community Development	Roxana Community Park District
ApexNetwork Physical Therapy	Evergreen Place Supportive Living	Madison Co. Planning & Development	Sandberg Phoenix & von Gontard, P.C.
Argosy Casino Alton	Federal Steel & Erection Company	Madison Co. Transit	Scheffel Boyle
Auto Butler Car Wash & Express Lube	Formea Animal Hospital	Marks Mortuary	Schiber Truck Company, Inc.
Avon	Foxes Grove Supportive Living Community	Marquette Catholic High School	Second Street Developments, LLC
B.E. Stylin' Salon	Franklin & Vaughn, LLC	Med Resources Inc.	Seiler Construction
Baxter's Distributing Co., Inc.	Freer Auto Body	Metro East Mini Storage	Serenity Title & Escrow, Ltd.
Beiser, State Representative Dan	Gent Funeral Home, Inc.	Mid America Audiology Group	Smart Choice Auto Sales
Bemis Family Chiropractic	Gentelin's on Broadway	Midwest Business Institute, Inc.	SNIP Alliance
Bland's Plumbing, Inc.	Godfrey Knights of Columbus	Morrissey Construction Co.	South Roxana, Village of
Bluff City Athletic Club, NFP	McNicholas Club	Morrissey Contracting Company, Inc.	Southern Illinois Builders Association
Body Restoration Salon & Spa	Goulding's Jewelers	Mungenast Alton Toyota Scion	Southwestern Illinois Employers Assoc.
Bold Enterprises Inc. d/b/a McDonald's	Grafton Chamber of Commerce	My Antique Store	SSM Physical Therapy
Bowl Haven Lanes	Greater Alton Concert Assoc.	Nautilus Fitness Center	St. Ambrose Catholic School
Boys & Girls Club of Bethalto	Greater Gateway Assn. of REALTORS®	New American Funding	St. Louis Regional Airport
Brickman Orthodontics	Green Tree Inn	North Alton Godfrey Business Council	State Farm Insurance - Fred Bright
BrickStreet Creative	GridHawk Aviation, LLC	Olive Oil Marketplace	TekCollect
Bush Refrigeration	Hansen Meat Company	Paychex, Inc.	TheBANK of Edwardsville - Edwardsville
CALC, Institute of Technology	Hayner Public Library District	Picture This and More	United Way of Greater St. Louis
Camp Electric & Heating Co., Inc.	Helmkamp Construction Co.	Precision Electrical & Lighting Supply Inc.	Villa Rose Senior Living Community
Carpenters Local 664	Heneghan and Associates, P.C.	Preferred Pediatric Home Health Care	Werts Welding & Tank Service, Inc.
Carrollton Bank	Heritage Environmental Services, LLC	Prestige Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning, Inc.	Wood River Township
Catdaddy's Tavern	Hertenstein Properties	Principia College	Wooff Realtors
Chapel & Keller Dentistry Partnership	Homefield Energy	Pugsley Services	Ziemer USA Inc.
Chef Bob's Catering	Honke Properties	Pyrotech, Inc.	
Christmas Wonderland	Illinois Business Journal	Raifort Commerce Park	
Clark-Wiegand Financial Services	IMPACT CIL	Rister's Automotive & Transmissions	
	Innovative Dentistry for Complete Health		
	Investment Planners, Inc.		
	JEN Mechanical, Inc.		

Attendees at Breakfast Connections learned communication and problem solving skills

On December 14, 2016, the RBGA held one of its monthly networking events. Breakfast Connections is held bi-monthly in the even months with varying agendas. Some months there are speakers from the community speaking on a variety of topics related to the workforce and other months, activities are held that give members the opportunity to spotlight their business or place of employment in a collaborative way. There is always time before and after to network with others in attendance. Members are also encouraged to bring literature about the products and

services they offer and flyers for any upcoming events they may have. At each Breakfast Connections event, everyone is given the opportunity to give a "One Minute Commercial" to spotlight their business.

Also at this event, the Small Business of the Month winner has the opportunity to spotlight their business and this month's winner was Elias, Kallal and Schaaf Funeral Homes & Crematory.

This month a team building activity was enjoyed by the participants at Atrium Hotel in Alton, where groups assembled three different toys. Each team found out the

importance of communication skills, the effectiveness behind problem solving skills, and the significance of leadership skills.

Each team cherished meeting new people while networking as they all worked together for the greater good. All of the toys were donated to Riverbend Family Ministries located at 131 E. Ferguson in Wood River.

The RBGA would like to thank everyone for their participation and donations at this month's Breakfast Connections. Not only were toys donated, there was also a pet food drive held at this event and donations were

made to SNIP Alliance for their Riverbend Pet Food Pantry.

This event was fun and very enlightening to everyone in attendance. Please mark your calendar and network with us on January 18th for the next Total Networking Luncheon event at Bluff City Grill. Hope to see you there.



Small Business of the Month Winner: Elias Kallal and Schaaf Funeral Homes & Crematory representatives Craig Schaaf with his mother Cindy Smith



Participants gather to begin building of the toys



(middle) Angie Holtkamp concentrates on her team's project

(near left) Team's completed grill



(far left) Team's completed tool bench

(middle) Team's completed nursery

(near left) RBGA Director of Member Services Trish Holmes and Laura Robinson of Evergreen Place Supportive Living, deliver toys to Tammy Iskarous of Riverbend Family Ministries.

Ambassadors ring bells and hold holiday party

Ambassador Committee December events:

The Ambassador Committee is a group of men and women who represent the Growth Association as a public relations body. The main focus of this committee is to aid the Growth Association in maintaining our visibility in the community. The Ambassador committee provides this visibility by generously volunteering their time to attend our ribbon cuttings, ground breakings, open houses, and Business After Hours events. They volunteer to work at our special events which are the Duck Race, Annual Dinner, Riverbend Golf Classic, State of the Riverbend Luncheon and the Women's seminar. This committee also assists the Membership Committee in the recruitment

and retention of the membership.

Overseen by the Director of Member Services, Trish Holmes, the committee was co-chaired this year by Pat Schwarte of Riverbender.com and Stacey Loveland of Foxes Grove Supportive Living Community. The RBGA thanks Pat and Stacey for their leadership and passion in the 2016 year.

December was a busy month for the Ambassadors. The Ambassadors participated in the Alton Boys & Girls Club Snack Program along with braving the cold and ringing bells for the Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign at the Godfrey Walmart.

The RBGA thanks every Ambassador for their hard work and dedication they have shown throughout the year.

2016 Ambassadors

Jenna Andres *Scheffel Boyle
Karen Baker-Brcnic *Alton Marina
Dorrie Ball *RD Ball Inspections
Nancy Bivens *WBGZ
Michelle Blackwood *Challenge Unlimited
Sarah Bolyard *Bee Noticed Marketing Solutions
Mary Boulds *City of Alton
Mitch Cannell *Logo It
Dorothy Droste *retired
Kurt Ferguson *The Telegraph
Linda Funk *Regions Bank
Jerry Gibson *retired
Tom Hoechst *CNB Bank & Trust
Gary Hoggatt, Jr. *1st MidAmerica Credit Union
Lindsey Kahl *Midwest Members Credit Union
David Knowles *Atrium Hotel
Matt Kotzamanis *TheBANK of Edwardsville
Therese Kuddes *Kuddes Advertising Specialties
Matt Labertew *Axis Spinal Care
Marlene Lewis *Alton Memorial Hospital
Stacey Loveland *Foxes Grove Supportive Living Community
Lee McRaven *OSF Saint Anthony's
Kimberley Mosby *Partners Insurance Agency
Lori Nikonovich *Grafton Winery & Brewhaus
Cara Paschal *Options Now Medical Pregnancy Clinic
Dick Propes *retired
Josh Ruyle *1st Mid America Credit Union-Bethalto
Amy Schaake *Edwardsville Intelligencer
Martha Schultz * First Clover Leaf Bank - Wood River
Pat Schwarte *Riverbender.com
Erin Spain *AdVantage NEWS
Stephanie Tate *Alton CVB
Kathy Weaver *Investment Planners, Inc.
Denise Wolff *Berkshire Hathaway Home Services
Maura Wuellner *United Way



Snacks donated to Alton Boys and Girls Club for their Snacks Program



Ambassadors gathered for a group picture.

Young Adults Committee Helps the Salvation Army Get Prepared for a Crazy Christmas

By Haley Shewmake and Nicholas Hayes

The Young Adults Committee (YAC) works with the RBGA to benefit non-profit organizations within the Riverbend area. The Committee consists of ten students from five different high schools. Two students are chosen from Alton High School, Civic Memorial High School, East Alton-Wood River High School, Marquette Catholic High School, and Roxana High School. Each school is paired with a mentor from various businesses within the area and the committee meets every month. Every meeting centralizes on organizing or carrying out services projects for non-profit organizations specifically chosen by each school.

This year, Haley Shewmake and Nicholas Hayes, the representatives from East Alton-Wood River High School, chose to work with the Salvation Army.

The Salvation Army is an international movement, and an evangelical part of

the universal Christian Church. It runs charity shops, operates shelters for the homeless, and disaster relief and humanitarian aid to developing countries.

EAWR senior, Haley Shewmake said, "Working with non-profits, such as the Salvation Army has greatly impacted my involvement in the community. Before joining the YAC, I never knew how a few hours of community service could greatly impact those that the non-profits help."

On December 8th, the YAC committee arrived at the Salvation Army in Alton and was given a description of their mission. The YAC was given a tour of the facility and was informed on what goes on during the holiday season. For the volunteer experience, we were able to sort through donations of food to be given to the less fortunate so they can have an enjoyable holiday season. We were also enlightened on what qualifications that need to be met in order



to receive the donations. Nicholas said, "I knew very little about the Salvation Army before my eye opening experience. I am so appreciative of the opportunity the YAC has given me to cooperate with the Salvation Army to give back to the community that has given me so much."

Like all representatives of the RBGA's Young Adults Committee, Haley Shewmake and Nicholas Hayes are actively engaged in their community and school. Haley is a senior and has participated in Student Council, Peer Leadership, and National Honor Society. She is one of the captains on her high school softball team and she plays select softball throughout the year. Haley likes to take time out

of her schedule and help run softball camps for little kids. She also enjoys volunteering with non-profits and other organizations. Next year, Haley plans to go to Wabash Valley College on a softball scholarship. Nicholas is a junior and has participated in varsity cheerleading, is currently Vice President of peer leadership and participates actively with his community fire department. Nicholas enjoys volunteering at his gym for tumbling while teaching children to have confidence in themselves and their skills. Along with assisting children and working with the fire department, Nicholas likes to work with other area non-profits.