

[RiverBend Growth Association names Riverbender.com Small Business of the Month](#)

[by Steven Spencer, Staff Writer](#)

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ALTON - The RiverBend Growth Association awarded Riverbender.com for Small Business of the Month for December.

Owner John Hentrich thanked the Growth Association for the honor and for being previously presented The Captain of the RiverBend Award.

“The recognition and encouragement we get from our followers is what keeps us going, pushing us to work harder every day,” Hentrich said. “Everywhere I go people tell me how much they appreciate our service to the community. They tell me they love our news, sports and local community video. They tell me they love all the rich content that is on our website, and with over a quarter of a million visitors each month it’s obvious that this team's hard work is paying off. I guess this is what you get when you find people who love their job and love the team they work with.”

RBGA Interim President, John Keller, congratulated and also thanked Hentrich for showing a commitment to the community’s youth with the Riverbender.com Community Center.

“It’s a very active and viable part of the community,” Keller added.

For more information on the RiverBend Growth Association visit
www.growthassociation.com.

December's RBGA Small Business of the Month's Riverbender.com founder thankful

By Jill Moon - jmoon@thetelegraph.com



Riverbender.com founder and owner John Hentrich, pictured holding sign, at this month's recognition of Riverbender.com as the RiverBend Growth Association (RBGA) Small Business of the Month. He is surrounded by his staff and RBGA Ambassadors.

ALTON — This month's recognition of Riverbender.com as the RiverBend Growth Association (RBGA) Small Business of the Month included poignant moments as its founder acknowledged his late wife's support.

Riverbender.com founder and owner John Hentrich thanked the RBGA for selecting the media outlet and community center as its Small Business of the Month, as well as for its previous award among Captains of the Riverbend. He then thanked his team responsible for the website's news and sports content.

"I also would like to give a lot of the credit to my wife, Dawn, who I know would be so proud to receive this award," said Hentrich, while surrounded by his staff, RBGA Ambassadors and new RBGA President John Keller, during a recognition ceremony Friday morning at the Riverbender.com Community Center on Third Street in Downtown Alton.

Dawn Hentrich died earlier this year on Feb. 20.

"It's a pretty awesome coincidence that the day we receive this award is also her birthday," Hentrich said Friday. "Not only was she a great business partner and very valuable in building all of our businesses, but she also did an amazing job of taking care of the house, the kids and myself."

Along with its website, Riverbender.com also provides a myriad of community services through its community center, especially for youth.

“Everywhere I go, people tell me how much they appreciate our service to the community,” Hentrich said. “I guess this is what you get when you have people who love their job and love the team they work with. The talent and dedication that make up our team is as strong as it’s ever been. I’m so proud of what we have accomplished.”

Keller took a few minutes to commend Hentrich’s encouragement of volunteerism.

“I want to thank him for moving back to open Riverbender.com in his hometown, their commitment to area youth and allowing his employees to use their ability to volunteer in the community.”

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