

# Caterer makes virtue of multi-tasking

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By JESS CHARLTON

For The Telegraph

EAST ALTON - Julia's Banquet Center, 101 Eastgate Plaza, has been honored with being named the RiverBend Growth Association Business of the Month for May.

"It's exciting and such an honor," Julia Kennedy, owner of Julia's Banquet Center, said. "We're a small business, and I think it's just wonderful we won this opportunity."

The association serves Alton, Bethalto, East Alton, Elsah, Foster Township, Godfrey, Grafton, Hartford, Roxana, South Roxana, Wood River and Wood River Township.

Every month, the association picks a business for its Business of the Month program. The association's purpose is to help provide leadership needed to attract, promote and support new and existing business growth throughout the River Bend.

Kennedy said the association asked her if she wanted to nominate her business for the honor.

"They sent us information on it. We answered questions about the business and then we turned it in," she said. "And we won."

Kennedy has been in the food industry for more than 10 years. She first had a restaurant in 1999 in Belleville. Once it closed, Kennedy realized she wanted to be involved in the catering business.

"I wanted something more, something else - something different," she said.

When Kennedy opened her catering business, she was located near Alton Square Mall. Since October 2009, she has been in the East Alton area.

Julia's Banquet Center offers many options for customers. Kennedy said they offer dinner packages, indoor and outdoor catering. She also does bridal and baby shower caterings. They will cater for business meetings. She also offers wedding packages and award ceremonies. For any occasion, Julia's Banquet will accommodate customers' needs.

"We pretty much do everything here," she said.

Julia's Banquet Center has four banquet rooms available for rent. Also, Kennedy's business caters to two schools. She helps with St. Ambrose one day per week and with Evangelical three days per week.

For the future, Kennedy said she hopes to keep her dream alive with her business and anticipate what's in store for her catering services.

"I just hope the business continues to grow. We've been at Eastgate for almost three years and I know we'll stay in this area for a long time," she said.

Julia's Banquet Center is a family-owned establishment.

For more information or to contact Julia's Banquet Center, you can visit their website at [www.juliasbanquetcenter.com](http://www.juliasbanquetcenter.com) or you can call them at (618) 251-2001.